

sex talk.

answers to your questions about sex and relationships

wildfact

Students do not need health insurance to be seen or treated at the UA Campus Health Service.

Q I was wondering... can men get the HPV vaccine yet?

A. Yes, the HPV vaccine is now available for boys and men and Campus Health has it. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the GARDASIL[®] vaccine for women in 2006 and for men in October 2009. It is a highly effective vaccine given as three injections over a 6-month period to help prevent Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) infection. Developed by Merck, GARDASIL[®] shots are given in the upper arm or upper thigh.

HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States. Most genital warts are caused by HPV infection. There are 30-40 subtypes of HPV which can be transmitted sexually and affect the genital area, leading to genital warts, oral, penile and anal cancer, as well as cervical changes in women that may progress to cervical cancer.

The vaccine will protect against HPV types 16 and 18 (which account for 70% of all cervical cancer cases) and HPV types 6 and 11 (which cause 90% of all genital warts). The vaccine will not protect against types to which the

individual has already been exposed. Women who receive GARDASIL[®] should still continue to have cervical cancer screening.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommended target population for GARDASIL[®] includes males and females between the ages of 11-26; however it can be administered to children as young as age 9. Ideally, GARDASIL[®] should be given prior to sexual contact and possible exposure to HPV. Students 27 years old or older should discuss with their health care provider whether or not to get the vaccine.

Check with your insurance provider to determine if GARDASIL[®] will be covered for you. Insurance benefits vary from one company to the next, so, each shot may be covered in full (you pay nothing) or cost up to \$139 per shot. No insurance? Merck has an assistance plan that will reduce the cost to \$30/injection. For more info, visit www.cdc.gov and search for "HPV vaccine" or www.GARDASIL.com.



Have a question? Send it to sextalk@email.arizona.edu

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