### A Pharmacist's Guide to Initiating Discussions about **HPV Prevention Against Head and Neck Cancers**

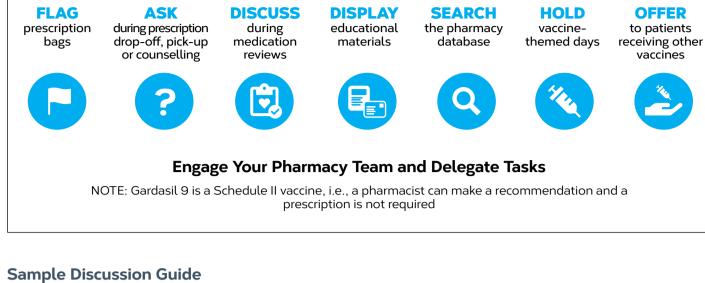


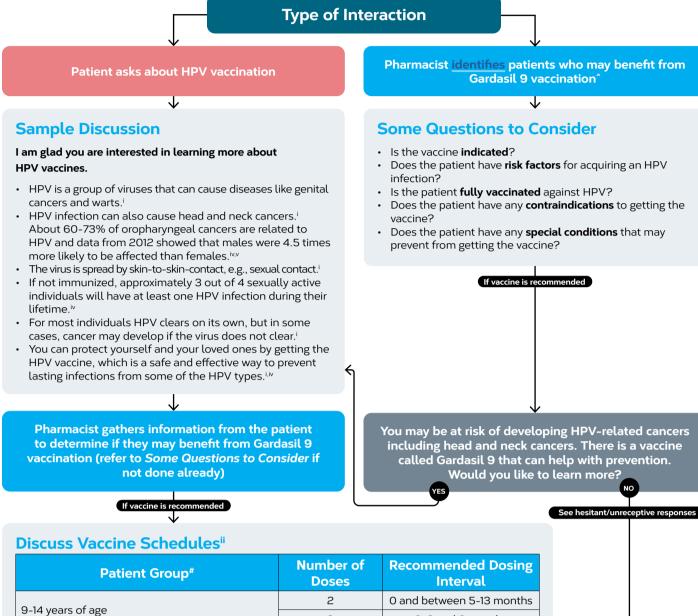
HPV infections are commonly associated with causing cancers related to the genital areas, including cervical, vulvar, vaginal and anal cancers, but it can also cause head and neck cancers. The focus of this tool will be on Gardasil 9 and its use to prevent head and neck cancers as it is currently the only HPV vaccine in Canada approved (with conditions) for this indication."," For general information about all HPV vaccines and their approved indications, please refer to the HPV chapter of the Canadian Immunization Guide.

## Gardasil 9 - Prevention of Diseases

For individuals 9-45 years of age <sup>^</sup>	HPV-types	Ф	₫
Cervical cancers	16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52, and 58	✓	×
Vulvar cancers		✓	×
Vaginal cancers		✓	x
Anal cancers		✓	✓
Oropharyngeal cancers <sup>-</sup>		✓	✓
Head and neck cancers (others)		✓	✓
Genital warts	6 and 11	✓	✓
Gardasil 9 also provides prevention against some precancerous or dysplastic lesions associated with the above HPV types			

Strategies to Identify Appropriate Patients





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0, 2 and 6 months

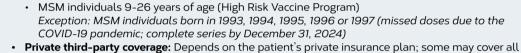
0, 2 and 6 months

No, thank you.

(Unreceptive)

Make a

recommendation



Grade 7 students in Ontario

**Discuss Vaccine Costs** 

≥15 years of age

prescription, coverage under a health spending account, etc. Out of pocket expenses: Provide patient with cost of the vaccine

(Receptive)

Eligible individuals for publicly funded doses:vi,vii

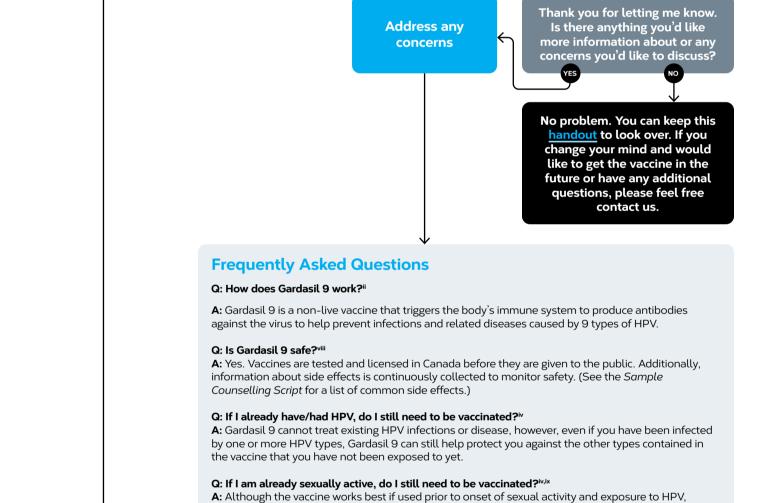
Note: The vaccine schedules are based on the recommended dose in the product monograph which may differ from NACI and/or

Exception: Grades 8-12 students in Ontario (if missed the Grade 7 vaccination schedule)

or part of the cost. Patients should contact their private insurer for more information, e.g., need for a

Are you interested in receiving the Gardasil 9 vaccine?

I am not sure Yes, I am interested in getting the vaccine.



**Patient Response** 

I need that.

(Hesitant)

### A: No. In Canada there are two available HPV vaccines, Gardasil 9 and Cervarix, however, NACI recommends use of Gardasil 9 since it protects against a greater number of HPV types and associated diseases.

Q: Is Gardasil 9 the only vaccine available for HPV prevention?iv

that you have not been exposed to yet.

Triage **Privately Funded Out of Pocket** 

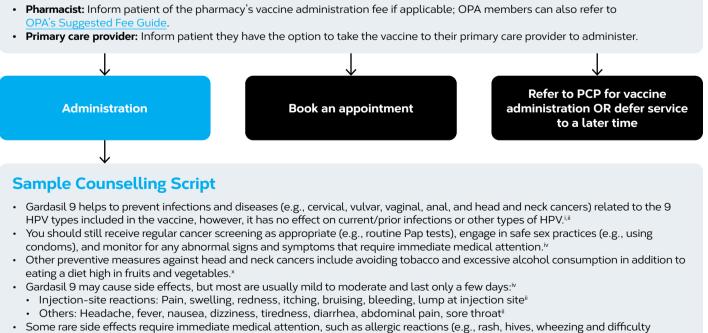
Make a recommendation OR if a

prescription is required, contact the PCP for

a prescription/refer patient to a PCP for a

prescription to bring back to the pharmacy

vaccination is still beneficial after the onset of sexual activity as it is very unlikely that you are/ have been infected with all the HPV types in the vaccine. Even people in long-term monogamous relationships can still get HPV since the virus can remain dormant for years. The vaccine does not have any effect on pre-existing HPV infections, including those caused by HPV types in the vaccine, however, Gardasil 9 can still help protect you against the other HPV types contained in the vaccine



# breathing)."

**Discuss Who Can Administer the Vaccine** 

**Publicly Funded** 

Refer to local public health unit

or school-based program

if eligible

If any side effects become serious, contact your healthcare provider immediately. These are not all the possible side effects and if you experience any other side effects that are concerning, please contact your healthcare provider.

Please stay in the pharmacy for 15 minutes after immunization for monitoring in case you have any rare but serious reactions.

- Obtain informed consent, administer the vaccine, document, and notify the patient's PCP
- Follow-up

Book appointment for the next dose

The Canadian Immunization Guide chapter on HPV vaccines was updated on July 24, 2024 with new recommendations. These may not all be reflected in this tool. Information on

This tool was developed by the Ontario Pharmacists Association (OPA) with a grant provided by Merck Canada. The information provided in this document is intended to assist pharmacists with initiating discussions with patients about Gardasil 9 for the prevention of head and neck cancers but is not meant to be comprehensive and does not replace professional judgement and responsibilities. It is provided

any updates to provincial guidance were not yet available at the time of publication of this tool. Approved (with conditions) pending additional studies to verify the vaccine's clinical benefit Immunocompetent, non-HIV infected HPV: human papillomavirus; MSM: men who have sex with men; NACI: National Advisory Committee on Immunization; PCP: primary care provider

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**DISCLAIMER** 

- REFERENCES
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