

How safe is the vaccine?

- The vaccine has been shown to be safe during large clinical trials.
- Some people may experience minor side effects such as redness, pain, and swelling at the injection site and mild fever.
- Very rarely an acute hypersensitivity reaction, or anaphylaxis, has occurred after vaccination; usually within 10 minutes of vaccination.
- If this does occur, it can be treated with drugs. For this reason, you will be asked to wait for 20 minutes after vaccination.

Who should not receive the vaccine?

- Anyone who has had a life-threatening reaction (hypersensitivity or anaphylaxis) to yeast, or any other component of GARDASIL®.
- The vaccine should not be given to pregnant women.

How can my daughter get the vaccine?

- From 2009, girls aged 12-18 who are at school will get information about the immunisation programme through their school.
- The information will include a consent form for you to sign and return.
- If you don't sign and return the consent form your daughter won't be given the vaccine.
- Girls aged 16 and over can consent themselves for the school-based vaccination but they still need to sign and return the consent form.
- Girls who are not at school (or if you do not want them to be vaccinated at school) can get the free vaccine from their doctor, practice nurse or health clinic.

If vaccinated, do young women still need to have cervical smear tests?

- Yes. The vaccine does not protect against all HPV types that cause cervical cancer, so if a woman has ever been sexually active, she still needs to have a smear test every three years between the ages of 20 and 70.

The cervical cancer vaccine and the National Immunisation Register

- HPV immunisations will be recorded on the National Immunisation Register (NIR) so that reminders can be issued if the course is incomplete.
- The information will also be used to check the impact of the vaccine programme on cervical cancer rates.
- If a young woman or her parents decline to have details recorded on the NIR, this would make it difficult to contact them about any missed doses.
- However, young women can still receive HPV vaccine even if they choose not to have their immunisations recorded on the NIR.

Where can I get more information?

For more information about the free cervical cancer vaccine, talk to your doctor, practice nurse or health clinic, visit www.cervicalcancervaccine.govt.nz or phone 0800 IMMUNE (0800 466 863).

Information about the National Cervical Screening Programme and smear tests is available on the National Screening Unit's website at www.nsu.govt.nz.



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Cervical cancer Vaccine



INFORMATION FOR GIRLS, YOUNG WOMEN
AND THEIR FAMILIES



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