

# Cervical cancer Vaccine ... Factsheet

This is an immunisation programme to protect girls and young women from HPV infection which can develop into cervical cancer later in life.



[www.cervicalcancervaccine.govt.nz](http://www.cervicalcancervaccine.govt.nz)

## Who is eligible?

Girls born on or after 1 January 1990 will be eligible for free HPV vaccine (called GARDASIL®) beginning with the oldest girls first.

From 1 September 2008, GARDASIL® will be available to young women born in 1990 and 1991 from their family doctor, practice nurse, or health clinic.

From 2009, girls aged 12 to 18 will be offered the vaccine. Most will receive it at school. Eligible girls or young women who paid for the first or second doses before the programme started can receive the vaccine free after 1 September 2008.

The cervical cancer vaccine will continue on the National Immunisation Schedule from 2009 for 12 year old girls (school Year 8).

**The doctor or a practice nurse can tell you more about the vaccine and when eligible girls and young women can receive the free vaccine.**

## Why vaccinate?

Every year in New Zealand about 160 women will be diagnosed with cervical cancer and 60 will die from it.

More than 99% of all cervical cancer is linked to infection with HPV.

Vaccinating girls and young women now against the main viruses that may cause cervical cancer will reduce their chances of getting cervical cancer later in life.

In the long term more than 30 lives may be saved every year.

## How safe is the vaccine?

The vaccine has been shown to be safe during large clinical trials involving more than 20,000 girls and young women. The trials found that GARDASIL® caused no serious side effects. More than 26 million doses of the vaccine have now been given worldwide.

## How many injections do I need to get?

The vaccine is given as three injections in the upper arm over a six-month period.

## How long will the appointment take?

About 15 to 20 minutes so that we can discuss the vaccine with you.

## How long do I have to wait in the surgery after I get my injection?

You will be asked to wait for 20 minutes after vaccination so that if you have an allergic reaction to the vaccination we can treat it.

## What sort of reaction might happen?

The following reactions may be expected after vaccination – pain, redness or swelling at the injection site, a general feeling of unwellness, mild fever.

## How much does it cost?

For girls born on or after 1 January 1990 it's free under the government funded immunisation programme.

If you're not eligible for the government funded immunisation programme, you can still choose to pay to receive the vaccine. At our clinic, the cost is \$\_\_\_\_\_ per injection. So that's \$\_\_\_\_\_ for all three.

## Can boys get immunised?

This government funded immunisation programme is not available to boys. This may be reconsidered later.