

From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

HSS(MD) 15/2007

To: All General Practitioners and Locum (*for onward distribution to practice staff including practice nurses*)
Chief Executive Designate of the HSCA
HSC Trust Chief Executives
HSC Trusts - Medical Directors to forward to:
 all relevant hospital, community and school health doctors
 Nursing Directors
Trust Directors of Children's and Family services - to forward to school nurses
HSS Board Chief Executives
Directors of Public Health
Consultants in Communicable Disease Control
Board and Trust Directors of Pharmaceutical Services
Prescribing Advisers
Community Pharmacists
Dr B Smyth, Regional Epidemiologist, CDSC (NI)
Dr P Jackson, Chair, Regional Immunisation Committee

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Our Ref: HSS(MD) 15/2007
Date: 22 June 2007

Dear Colleague

HPV VACCINE

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety announced on 20 June 2007 that it has agreed in principle to introducing a vaccine against human papilloma virus (HPV). This is subject to independent peer review of the cost-benefit analysis, and follows advice received from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), the independent expert body that provides advice on vaccines. Funding for this programme will be considered in the context of Comprehensive Spending Review.

Human Papilloma Viruses cause 99 per cent of invasive cervical cancer. It is estimated that HPV vaccines could reduce the number of cases of cervical cancer by up to 70%. The highly successful and comprehensive cervical screening programme will continue after an HPV vaccine has been introduced.

Implementing an HPV vaccination for girls around 12 years of age will be complex as three doses of the vaccine are required to provide protection. Details of the programme will be finalised over the next few months, following further advice from JCVI and the independent peer review process.

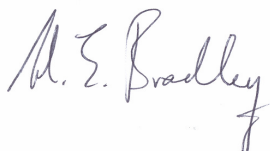
This announcement of the potential new programme provides opportunities for the Department and the Health and Social Care System to work together to plan how the programme can be rolled out. We will write with further information once it becomes available.

In order to help planning and ensure records are up to date, I would be grateful if Trust Chief Executives could confirm the name, e-mail address, and telephone number of their lead for this programme. Please could you reply to Mr David Nugent at david.nugent@dhsspsni.gov.uk by the end of June.

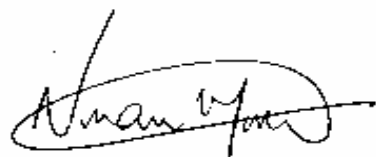
Yours sincerely



DR MICHAEL MCBRIDE
Chief Medical Officer



MR MARTIN BRADLEY
Chief Nursing Officer



DR NORMAN MORROW
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer

cc Mr A McCormick, Permanent Secretary
Linda Brown, Deputy Secretary, DHSSPS
Mr A Hamilton, Deputy Secretary, DHSSPS
Mr D Hill, Deputy Secretary, DHSSPS
Ms C Jendoubi, Director Primary Care DHSSPS
Mr A Elliott, Director of Health Development, DHSSPS
Dr L Doherty, Senior Medical Officer/Consultant Epidemiologist, DHSSPS
Angela McLernon, Nursing Officer, DHSSPS
Ms J Moore, Health Protection Team, DHSSPS
Mr J Farrell, Principal, GMS Contract Unit, DHSSPS
Prescribing Advisers, Health & Social Services Boards
Directors of Primary Care, Health & Social Services Boards
Regional Drug and Poisons Information Service
Local Health & Social Care Groups – Chairs/Managers
Dr B Dunn, Chair, GPC, BMA
Dr B Gaffney, Chief Executive, HPA NI
Mr M McDermott, Information Office, DHSSPS
Ms C Baxter, Information Office, DHSSPS
Dr Jill Mairs, Regional Procurement Pharmacist, Northern trust
Regional Medicines Information at Belfast Trust
Dorothy Angus, Department of Education
Chief Executive of Education Boards

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