



20 June 2016

Matthew Wolfenden  
Procurement Manager  
PHARMAC  
Email: vaccines@pharmac.govt.nz

**Re: Submission on proposal to amend listings in the National Immunisation Schedule**

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback on the proposal to amend listings in the National Immunisations Schedule.

Regional Public Health serves the greater Wellington region through its three district health boards (DHBs): Capital & Coast, Hutt Valley and Wairarapa, and as a service is part of the Hutt Valley District Health Board.

We work with our community to make it a healthier safer place to live. We promote good health, prevent disease, and improve the quality of life for our population, with a particular focus on children, Māori and working with primary care organisations. Our staff includes a range of occupations such as: medical officers of health, public health advisors, health protection officers, public health nurses, and public health analysts.

We provide school based immunisation services for schools in the greater Wellington region. As such our feedback is focused on the proposed changes to the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine and the potential impact for our region.

We strongly support the proposal to fund the vaccination of both males and females aged up to 26 years and the introduction of the 9 valent (Gardasil 9) vaccine. Both these measures will increase the population and personal health benefits of the HPV vaccine for our communities.

We support the introduction of the two dose regime for males and females aged 14 years and under (pending Medsafe approval). Our school based vaccination programme administers vaccinations to approximately 4500 students each year and requires comprehensive planning and resourcing to ensure smooth implementation. We respectfully request some indication as to when approval can be expected and what the position will be if the two dose regime is not approved. This will determine what contingency plans we may need to have in place.

We are unsure why approval is not being sought for a two dose regime males and females aged 15 – 26 years and would welcome clarification on this issue. Higher and more equitable coverage is likely to be achieved with a two dose regime.

We consider an informative health promotion programme emphasising the advantages of this immunisation for all genders is required to ensure high uptake. This health promotion package needs to be designed to ensure an equitable outcome for all ethnicities.

We are happy to provide further advice or clarification on any of the points raised in our written submission. The contact point for this submission is:

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Kind regards

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