

## GARDASIL

Gardasil is a new vaccine (shot) that helps prevent infection of **Human Papillomavirus** (HPV). HPV is a common virus. In 2005, it was estimated that 20 million people in the US had it. There are many different types of HPV; some cause no harm. Others can cause diseases of the genital area. For most people the virus goes away on its own. When the virus does not go away it can develop into cervical cancer, precancerous lesions or genital warts, depending on the HPV type.

The Gardasil vaccine works by preventing infection with four types of HPV-specifically types 6, 11, 16 & 18. These were chosen from the over 100 types of HPV because they cause about 70% of **cervical cancers** and 90% of **genital warts**.

Here is the good news- initial data shows that this vaccine is very successful in preventing these two illnesses, but there is a catch. You must vaccinate your child before they are exposed. After someone gets HPV the vaccine is significantly less effective and unfortunately initial infection is symptom free, so there is no way to tell who has or who doesn't have it. Also, and this is the tough part, HPV is transmitted via sexual contact of any kind: genital, oral and even touching and is very common as it is estimated that 50% of "sexually active" people catch HPV during their lifetime. Understandably it is difficult to think of your "little girl" involved in these activities but-as stated above, we must vaccinate her before she is exposed.

### What do you need to know about Gardasil

- Gardasil is currently recommended for **girls 9-26 years old**
- The series **requires 3 shots**: *first dose* at your choosing- *second dose* 2 months later and *third dose* 6 months after the first dose.
- It is not a live vaccine, therefore your child cannot get these diseases from the shots.
- Vaccine does not substitute for routine cervical cancer screening (Your daughter will still need to have routine pap smears)
- As with all vaccines, Gardasil may not fully protect everyone who gets the vaccine
- As mentioned above, it will not protect against HPV types that your daughter has already been infected with.
- As with all other vaccines: those who are allergic to any of the ingredients in the vaccine or had an allergic reaction after getting a dose of the vaccine should not receive Gardasil.
- Those who are pregnant should not receive the vaccine.
- Let us know if your daughter has a weakened immune system or is currently ill and our care providers will determine if it is OK to receive the vaccine.
- As with all vaccines, there may be some side effects with Gardasil, including pain, swelling, redness and itching at the injection site as well as fever. Rarely some have reported bronchospasm (wheezing) with the vaccine. Let us know if this occurs.

Now that we have informed you about this exciting new product, we must tell you that since it is new, we are unsure of the insurance coverage for this vaccine. We will be happy to provide the vaccine and file with your insurance company, but cannot guarantee that it will be covered completely. If it is not, please be aware that we will bill you for the cost. Currently our cost is \$135 per dose. Remember you need three doses to be covered

If you wish to proceed with the vaccines today, please sign this sheet stating that you read and understand the above and had a chance to get answers to your questions.

Thank you for your consideration!