American Academy of Releases Brief on Effective HPV Vaccinations Policies

Academy Supports Increased Uptake of HPV Vaccination in Communities

Washington, D.C. (July 9, 2018) — The American Academy of Nursing today released its policy brief on the need for accelerated uptake and support of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination throughout U.S. communities to prevent a variety of cancers later in life.

Twelve types of HPV’s are known to be strong human carcinogens, and are referred to as high-risk HPVs. These are responsible for nearly all cervical malignancies, and around 40-50% of all vaginal and vulvar cancers in women. In addition, these HPVs cause over 75% of all anal and perianal cancers in both men and women. Early HPV-vaccinations in children and young adults have been shown to be safe and effective in preventing these cancers later on into adulthood.

The Academy’s policy brief, “An Effective Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Policy will Reduce Infection- and Malignancy-Related Morbidity and Mortality,” was published in the June/July 2018 issue of the Academy’s journal, Nursing Outlook.

“The Academy has long supported vaccines as a means of reducing incidences of diseases,” said Academy President Karen Cox, PhD, RN, FAAN. “HPV vaccinations are both safe and effective in preventing many cancers later in life, and are also a low-cost solution. We welcome collaboration with other health care organizations to support a more robust HPV prevention strategy.”

The Academy recommends increased HPV vaccination coverage for 9 to 26 year olds throughout U.S. communities. An increased HPV vaccinations policy is consistent with the 2012-13 President’s Cancer Panel recommendations, as well as and Healthy People 2020 goals. Guidelines and recommendations by clinicians should be clear, concise, easy-to-follow, and disseminated via a variety of methods so that rapid uptake of the vaccination may occur. The Academy also supports on-going evaluation of the vaccination program approaches.

Read the full policy brief: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.outlook.2018.03.005

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