

FSRH statement on the interim decision by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) to deny the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccination to boys

19th July 2017

The Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH) would like to express its concern over the interim recommendation by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), the government's vaccination advisory body, to not provide the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccination to all boys.

Dr Asha Kasliwal, FSRH President, said:

“The interim decision to deny boys the HPV vaccination is a huge missed opportunity for improving long-term SRH outcomes and tackling gender inequality. FSRH aims to improve women’s sexual and reproductive health, especially access to contraception. However, HPV affects not only women, but also men, and FSRH firmly believes that men and boys are vital in contributing to secure women’s reproductive health and rights. We support boys and men’s right to access high-quality SRH services and live a life free of sexually-transmitted infections such as HPV. FSRH calls on JCVI to reverse its decision when it convenes in October.”

Peter Baker, HPV Action Campaign Director, said:

“It is astonishing that the Government’s vaccination advisory committee has ignored advice from patient organisations, doctors treating men with HPV-related cancers, public health experts and those whose lives have been devastated by HPV. The interim decision not to vaccinate boys is about saving money not public health or equity. HPV Action will continue to make the case for a national vaccination programme that protects men and women equally and will be calling on ministers to make the right decision if the JCVI continues along its current path. There may also be grounds for a legal challenge on the grounds that a decision to leave boys and men at risk breaches equality law.”

Ends

Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare, 27 Sussex Place, London NW1 4RG. Charity No. 1019969.

Notes to editors:

- The Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH) is the largest UK professional membership organisation working at the heart of sexual and reproductive health (SRH), supporting healthcare professionals to deliver high quality care. It works with its 15,000 members, to shape sexual reproductive health for all. It produces evidence-based clinical guidance, standards, training, qualifications and research into SRH. It also delivers conferences and publishes The Journal of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care. For more information please visit: www.fsrh.org
- HPV Action: HPV Action (HPVA) is a collaborative partnership of 47 patient and professional organisations, including FSRH, that is working to reduce the health burden of HPV. To achieve this, HPVA delivers an advocacy campaign that aims to achieve gender-neutral HPV vaccination. This means that all boys and girls will be routinely offered vaccination against HPV at the age of 12/13. The vaccination of boys as well as girls is supported not only by the 47 organisations that are part of HPV Action but also by the BMA, Jo’s Cervical Cancer Trust

and a wide range of clinicians and academics. For more information please visit:
<http://www.hpvaction.org>

HPV

- Most people will contract HPV in their lifetime and clear the virus. But, for some people, HPV becomes a cause of cancer such as cervical, anal, penile, vulval, head, neck and throat cancer. HPV also causes genital warts.
- The JCVI began to consider gender-neutral vaccination in 2013 (12/13-year-old girls have been vaccinated in the UK since 2008).
- Around 11 countries including Australia, Austria, Italy and Norway are already vaccinating boys or will be doing so in the near future.

For further information please contact:
Camila Azevedo
External Affairs & Standards Officer
Email: externalaffairsofficer@fsrh.org
Telephone: 02037945309