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BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Marie Sherlock
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
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11th March 2025

PQ58358-25 -To ask the Minister for Health if she is aware of the National Immunisation Advisory Committee recommendation that HPV vaccination should be offered to unvaccinated women who require excisional treatment for CIN 2+ lesions; if there are plans to provide vaccination to this group free of charge; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Marie Sherlock

Dear Deputy Sherlock

Thank you for your representation. In Ireland, all students in their first year of secondary school will be offered the HPV vaccine as part of the school vaccination programme. Since 2010 the HSE has offered HPV vaccines to female students in first year of second level and this programme was expanded in 2019 to include male students in first year. To date over 550,000 students have received the HPV vaccine. This programme is continuing in the 2024/2025 academic year in first year and age equivalent in special schools and people who are home schooled. In July 2018, the National Immunisation Committee (NIAC) recommended the HPV vaccine for people living with HIV up to and including 26 years of age and for all gay, bisexual and men who have sex with men (gbMSM), including gbMSM living with HIV, up to and including 45 years of age.

In October 2022, the National Immunisation Committee (NIAC) updated the recommended number of vaccine doses:

For gbMSM under 25 years – a single dose of HPV vaccine is recommended

For gbMSM from the age of 25 (up to and including 45 years) – 2 doses of HPV vaccine are now recommended at 0 and 6 -12 months.

NIAC provide their recommendations to the DOH who will accept the recommendations and adopt them as policy and the HSE will then implement the programmes based on the policy decision. It is currently not Department of Health immunisation policy to provide the HPV vaccine to unvaccinated women who require excisional treatment for CIN 2+ lesions. Information about the HPV vaccine is available from www.hpv.ie. I hope this response provides you with assistance.

Kind regards

Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Officer of the Chief Clinical Officer