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To: All WellSense Providers

From: WellSense Health Plan

Subject: **Tips to improve Immunizations for Adolescents (IMA)**

Product: MassHealth Clarity plans (formerly QHP) Senior Care Options

Tips to improve Immunizations for Adolescents (IMA)

National Immunization Awareness Month is the perfect time to ensure that your MassHealth and Clarity plans members are up to date on all recommended vaccines. They play a crucial role in reducing the rates of illness and death from serious, preventable diseases.

While most childhood vaccines are given before the age of six, with the exception of the annual flu and COVID-19 vaccines, pre-teens need additional vaccinations. Adolescents need 3 crucial vaccines for optimal health: Tdap, Meningococcal and a 2-dose series for HPV.

Here are tips and recommendations from the National HPV Vaccination Roundtable, which aims to eliminate HPV through vaccination:

- Start offering the HPV vaccine to all members starting at age 9. (The CDC recommends that HPV vaccination can start at this age.)
- Emphasize that completing the vaccination early requires only 2 shots instead of 3.
- During well-child visits, encourage families to consider vaccination by discussing the importance of HPV vaccination, spread across multiple visits.
- Discuss this key message: HPV vaccination can prevent HPV-related cancers. Getting fully vaccinated at the recommended ages provides 90% efficacy against six HPV-related cancers.
- For caregivers hesitant about the HPV vaccine:
 - Engage in active listening to understand their concerns.

Provider Communications

Massachusetts



- Highlight that 75% of U.S. parents have chosen to protect their children from HPV-related cancers with the HPV vaccine.
- Offer strong support for the HPV vaccine, as caregivers highly trust their child's primary care provider.
- Start the series no later than the 12th-year well-child exam to ensure enough time to administer the second dose before the member's 13th birthday.
- For the second dose, be sure to schedule a follow-up appointment before the member leaves the office. Provide a reminder call before the appointment. Studies have shown that providers and caregivers often expect each other to schedule the second visit, leading to some members receiving only one dose.

Remember: Providers won't get credit toward HEDIS for members who don't complete the HPV vaccine series by their 13th birthday.

For more information about the HEDIS IMA measure and other key HEDIS measures, please visit our new [Quality resources for providers](#) section at wellsense.org.

Questions?

Please contact us at QualityDept@wellsense.org with any questions.