



The first vaccine (*Gardasil*) against Human Papillomavirus (HPV) has recently become available. The vaccine is highly effective against four types of HPV that are the cause of most cervical cancers and genital warts.

- The vaccine is recommended for females age 9 – 26.
- Ideally, the vaccine is given to females who have not become sexually active, BUT it is still recommended for sexually active women.
- Women should receive the vaccine even if they have had a history of cervical dysplasia or abnormal pap smears that have been evaluated or treated.
- It does NOT protect against all types of HPV and yearly Pap smears are still needed.

It is administered as 3 separate injections, with the second shot given 2 months and the third does 6 months after the first dose.

The series of three doses will cost \$435 (\$145/dose) from the UNH Health Services Pharmacy. Once you speak to your medical provider to find out if you are a candidate to receive the vaccine, you will need to contact your health insurance company to find out if they will cover the vaccine if given at Health Services.

Health Services provides annual gynecological exams and Pap smears. If a student has paid her health fee, gynecological exams are available at no cost. The cost for a Pap smear is \$10.

When a student contacts their insurance company, they should ask:

1. Are Gardasil vaccinations covered by my insurance plan?
2. Will my insurance plan cover the vaccinations if I receive them at the UNH Health Services Center in Durham, NH?
Will I have a co-payment?

These are the major questions that should be asked when a student calls their insurance company. I would think that the vaccine is covered by all insurance companies; however the level of plan benefits may vary from plan to plan within each company. That is why it is important to ask question #2.

If you would like to make an appointment to receive the vaccine or have a gynecological exam, call Health Services at (603) 862-1806.