

Expanding Age Criteria for Gardasil 9

On 10/5/2018, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved a supplemental application for Gardasil 9 (Human Papillomavirus (HPV) 9-valent Vaccine, Recombinant) expanding the approved use of the vaccine to include women and men aged 27 through 45 years (prior approved age indication for males and females was 9 through 26 years only).

For vaccines, NC Medicaid typically follows Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations published by the CDC on a biannual basis. However, due to the high interest among the provider community to expand the age indication according to FDA approval, Gardasil 9 was considered for expanded coverage and approved for use by the NC Medicaid Pharmacy & Therapeutics committee on 11/13/2018 and by the Physician Advisory Group on 12/6/2018.

In persons already exposed to a particular strain of HPV, the vaccine will not work against that strain. However, a person can still gain protection against the strains they have not encountered. For these reason, vaccination has been strongly recommended for young people.

Effective February 17, 2019, NC Medicaid will expand coverage of Gardasil 9 to male and female patients 9-45 years of age when administered in a provider's office and billed as a medical claim. This expanded coverage will apply to all claims with a date of service of October 5, 2018 and afterwards.