

## POSITION SUMMARY

# Oncology Nursing Society Position on the Human Papillomavirus Vaccine and Prevention of Cervical Cancer

Infection with the human papillomavirus (HPV) is the most significant risk factor for developing cervical cancer. In 2006, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration licensed the first HPV vaccine for girls and young women aged 9–26 years. The vaccine protects against four HPV types, which together cause 70% of cervical cancers and 90% of genital warts.

It is the position of the Oncology Nursing Society that the HPV vaccine is part of cervical cancer prevention and early detection.

This includes

- Full coverage for the HPV vaccine by private and public payers
- Inclusion of the HPV vaccine in federal programs that support vaccinations for children
- Awareness campaigns and other efforts to educate the public about availability of the HPV vaccine funded by state and federal governments
- The decision to vaccinate children younger than age 18 is made by a parent in correlation with healthcare providers.

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