

HPV Vaccine Hesitancy: Effective Communication with Parents

Our Mission



Boost Oregon aims to eliminate vaccine-preventable diseases by educating parents and the general public about children's vaccines. We use evidence-based information to empower parents and support medical providers.

Informed Parents. Healthy Kids.

Our Approach

We support vaccination education with a three-pronged approach:

- 1. Educating parents;
- 2. Supporting medical providers; and
- 3. Encouraging parent advocates.



Our Philosophy

Boost Oregon's work starts with two, core beliefs:

- 1. Parents want to make the best possible decisions for their children's health.
- 2. If you give parents evidence-based information, without fear or degradation, they will make the best decisions for their families.



Effective Communication Strategies

- **Understand first:** Parents want the best for their children.
 - You, as the medical provider, want the same.
- Establish a rapport with the family.
 - You share the same goal as the family: that the children live long, healthy lives.
 - Preventative care, like eating healthfully, exercising, and vaccines, achieves that goal.



How to Bring Up the HPV Vaccine

• Treat the HPV vaccine recommendation as you would any other vaccine recommendation. Do not single it out for special treatment.

Bundle the HPV vaccine with the other vaccine recommendations for that visit.

• "We have some vaccines to do today: Tdap, HPV, and meningococcal. Any

questions?"



Core Communication Skills

Four R's

- **Receive** the reasons why they are concerned.
- Repeat their concerns back to them to show that you have heard and understood them.
- **Respond** with evidence-based information.
- Refer them to additional, trusted resources.



What if the Family Pushes Back?

- Use motivational interviewing techniques:
 - Form a collaborative relationship.
 - Express empathy: "I hear that you're feeling hesitant about the HPV vaccine. I understand your feelings; there can be a lot of confusing information."
 - Evoke feelings/desires: "I recommend this vaccine because it prevents cancer."
 and/or "I recommended this vaccine for my own children."
 - Allow the family to feel involved in the decision: "May I share with you my recommendation?"
 - Be respectful and non-judgmental.

What NOT to Do

When discussing the HPV vaccine, **DO NOT**:

- Belittle hesitant parents.
- Encourage fear or guilt.
- Cause parents to feel threatened.
- Repeatedly tell parents why they must vaccinate their child.
- Emphasize the benefits when you observe clear **resistance**.

How to Counter Misinformation

- Always start by asking questions.
 - "What concerns you about the vaccine?"
 - "Where did you get that information?"
- Empathize with concern and applaud their skepticism.
- Do not try to change their mind.
 - o Instead, try to facilitate an informed decision.
- Give them an out.
 - If they're not ready to decide today, drop it.
- Encourage them to look it up: Search "debunk....."



What if the Family Resists?

- Be patient.
 - It may take more than one visit to counter the misinformation the family has absorbed for months or years.
- Refer them to credible resources like Boost Oregon, American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Cancer Society.
- **Invest** in your relationship with the family.
 - Over time, they will see and feel that you have the child's best interests at the forefront of your HPV vaccine recommendation.



Common Myths about the HPV Vaccine

MYTH: The HPV vaccine is for girls only, not boys.

FACT: The vaccine helps protect boys and girls from developing cancer later in life. HPV causes cancers affecting men and women. (CDC)



- HPV causes cancers of the:
 - Cervix
 - Vagina
 - Vulva
 - Anus
 - Penis
 - Back of throat (CDC)

Common Myths about the HPV Vaccine

MYTH: The HPV vaccine isn't necessary because my child isn't sexually active.

FACT: Vaccines only provide protection before someone is exposed to a disease.

- Giving children the HPV vaccine before potential exposure ensures they are protected well into adulthood.
- If the vaccine is given later in life, it may be less or not effective, and thus it can be too late to vaccinate.



Common Myths about the HPV Vaccine

MYTH: The HPV vaccine is just a moneymaker for big pharma.

FACT: Yes, pharmaceutical companies profit from selling HPV vaccines, but the treatment of diseases caused by HPV is much more profitable than the prevention of disease.

 Cost of vaccines compared to cost of treatment: http://www.boostoregon.org/arent-vaccines-just-moneymakers-for-pharmaceutical-companies













Please email <u>info@boostoregon.org</u> for free copies of our HPV facts sheets (available in English, Spanish, Russian, and Ukrainian) and other vaccine resources.

Additional Resources

- Parents' Guide
- Medical Providers' Guide
- Pictorial Flipbook
- Vaccine Fact Sheets
- Community Workshops









- Medical Provider Trainings
- Video series for new parents
- Website
- Blog

Video Series for Your Infant's Well-Visits

Congratulations on your new baby! You may be wondering what to expect at your baby's well-visits with the pediatrician. Watch these videos before each appointment to feel prepared and confident. The videos are available in English and Spanish.







Your Baby's Four-Month Wellness Appointment



Your Baby's Six-Month Wellness Appointment



Your Baby's Nine-Month Wellness Appointment



Your Child's 1-Year Wellness Appointment



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