

## HPV Vaccination Safety Talking Points for Clinicians in Wichita

To help parents make the decision to protect their adolescent child with vaccination, recommend the HPV vaccination series the same way you recommend the other adolescent vaccines. For example, you can say *"Your child is due for three shots today, to protect against meningitis, HPV cancers, and whooping cough."* Parents may be interested in vaccinating, yet still have questions. Taking the time to listen to parents' questions helps you save time and give an effective response.

Some parents in the Wichita area have stated to clinicians that they have concerns about protecting their children from cancer with HPV vaccination because of the media coverage about Gabi Swank's illness after being vaccinated. For parents who cite this specific concern as a reason to refuse HPV vaccination for their children, the following talking points may be helpful.

*"I understand you are concerned about your child's health – I am too. I know about the case you are asking about, and of course we feel bad for her and for her family, that she's had to deal with a serious illness.*

*"However, there is no evidence that this specific case or that any other case of lupus was caused by HPV vaccination. There are multiple studies that show that women and girls who received Gardasil are not more likely to develop nervous system disorders or autoimmune disorders—including lupus—than those who were unvaccinated or who received other vaccines.*

*"Not protecting children with the HPV vaccination series can leave them at risk for developing the cancers caused by HPV. There are about 27,000 of those cancers diagnosed every year and some of them, like oropharyngeal cancer, are on the rise. There are also more than 300,000 precancers of the cervix in women that require testing and treatment that can lead to additional problems with the cervix, such as preterm birth or problems during delivery.*

*There are so many things we can't protect our children from, but now we have a vaccine that can actually prevent certain cancers. I'd like to see your child protected from those cancers by starting the HPV vaccine series today."*

### **Additional Information for Clinicians**

In 2011, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) concluded that there is not enough evidence to say that the human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine causes or does not cause certain autoimmune diseases. IOM an independent, nonprofit organization that works outside of government to provide unbiased and authoritative advice to decision makers and the public, reviewed the available data regarding HPV vaccine and several autoimmune diseases (acute disseminated encephalomyelitis, transverse myelitis, neuromyelitis optica, multiple sclerosis, Guillain-Barre syndrome, chronic inflammatory disseminated polyneuropathy, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) For more detailed information on this topic, see the 2011 IOM publication: [Adverse Effects of Vaccines: Evidence and Causality](#).

Studies done in [2012](#), [2014](#), and [2015](#) found women and girls who received the Gardasil shot were not more likely to develop autoimmune disorders than those who were unvaccinated. The 2012 and 2014 studies included lupus disease.

In summary, there is no scientific evidence that receipt of HPV4 vaccine causes autoimmune disorders including lupus.