

Price List

Initial consultation with Doctor having special interest in HPV: £50
Course of 3 vaccines, including the initial consultation £400

Payment to be made in the form of a personal cheque to
The Lichfield Wellbeing Clinic, by BACS transfer or by cash.

Contact Details

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www.cloistersmedicalpractice.co.uk

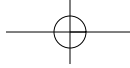


Telephone: 01543 440935



Patient Information Leaflet

HPV vaccination



Why is Cervical Screening Important for women? (Smear tests or Pap testing)

Cervical screening involves checking that the cervix (neck of womb) is free of any disease that could eventually develop into cancer if left untreated. A sample of cells is taken during the test, using a small soft brush, and looked at by someone specially trained to detect subtle changes.

Any abnormalities are followed up and are usually treated at a 'colposcopy clinic', based in a hospital.

Cervical cancer can occur in any woman who has been sexually active and has, at some stage, been infected with the Human Papilloma Virus. As most women will have been infected with this virus during their life, with no visible effects, this means that most women are at risk and should be screened according to national guidelines.

Women who are vaccinated against some strains of the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) before they are sexually active will have protection from 70% of cervical cancers but as this vaccination cannot cover all the strains then women should still have smear tests regularly to ensure their cervix is healthy. (See next section 'what is HPV').

Cervical cancer used to be very common in the UK but thanks to early detection (by cervical screening) and effective treatments, the number of women contracting this un-pleasant disease has fallen rapidly: It currently affects about 2,800 women a year in the UK, (killing 1,100) making it the 11th commonest cause of cancer amongst women.

The national screening programme in the UK is highly effective at detecting pre-cancerous changes and smear tests are recommended

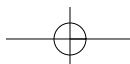
3-5 yearly, in England, for all women who have ever been sexually active from the ages of 25-64. The UK cervical screening programme is one of the most effective in the world.

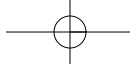
Women are automatically sent invitation letters from the Health Authority when their next test is due. This invitation includes an up to date information leaflet but further information can be accessed at any time via the national screening programme website:

<http://www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk/cervical/index.html>

The cervical screening programme is not perfect – no screening test is, in fact up to 50% of women who currently develop cervical cancer were not picked up via the screening programme. Usually this is because they never attended for their smear tests or had a very rare strain of the disease.

Further information about the programme is available from your GP who will arrange for all your routine cervical screening to be performed at the surgery by one of the practice nurses.





What is Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)

This is a very common infection which is passed by skin to skin contact between people. There are many forms of this infection (over 100 different types), some of which affect the genital area. A small number are known to be linked to an increased risk of developing cervical cancer some years after infection.

Anyone who is sexually active is likely to have been exposed to HPV at some time and it is known that around 80% of people contract at least one form of the infection during their life.

Most people clear any HPV infection harmlessly from their bodies without ever being aware of it.

There is no routinely available test for HPV and, as the infection does not cause any symptoms in most people, there is no way of knowing who is infected at any one time. There is research underway to develop effective tests but it will be several years before this is reliable enough to be made available.

We know that young people transmit the virus easily, particularly during sexual intercourse.

In some women HPV triggers changes in the cervix which could lead on to developing cervical cancer if left untreated.

If detected by screening and treated effectively, then HPV damage to the cervical cells can be cured.

If left untreated, HPV damage may heal itself but may progress to cancer. This process usually takes over ten years.

What is HPV Vaccination?

Vaccines are commonly used to prevent infectious diseases: We are all familiar with adult tetanus vaccinations (jabs or immunisations) as well as the programme of injections given to children to protect them from measles, mumps etc.

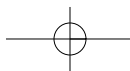
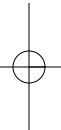
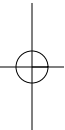
Vaccination programmes have saved millions of lives throughout the world and have resulted in some serious diseases becoming very rare. New vaccines are being developed all the time.

Two vaccines against HPV have been developed and tested and are now available for use (Gardasil and Cervarix). They appear to be highly effective at preventing people from contracting two of the strains of HPV that are most strongly linked to cervical cancer (HPV 16 & 18). This is the first time that a vaccine has been developed specifically against a virus that is known to trigger a cancer.

These vaccines are both already being used in the USA and Australia as well as several European countries.

As of September 2008 the UK Government has agreed to fund a programme of vaccination of all 12-13 yr old girls. A national advertising programme 'Arm against cervical cancer' has been launched.

Over the next 4 years a 'catch up' programme will be in place to vaccinate girls who are currently aged 14-18yrs. No other people will be able to have vaccination on the NHS according to current guidance; this is in line with what is being done in Australia.



People who might benefit most from HPV vaccination include: Women not covered by the national programme but who have not yet been sexually active (particularly 18-25yr olds). Women who have had few sexual partners but are contemplating new sexual relationships.

There are theoretical benefits for a much wider range of people including men, particularly those who may be at increased risk of genital cancers because they have sex with other men.

Please discuss any questions you may have with a doctor.



Lichfield Wellbeing Clinic

In response to requests from people in the Lichfield area we have set up a private service to allow people to have the vaccine privately, without needing a referral from their GP.

This clinic is run by GPs from local surgeries, outside usual surgery hours. It is a private service, outside the NHS but designed to complement NHS care.

Currently the only service being provided is HPV counselling and vaccination, it is envisaged in future that other services may be available this way.

People wishing to discuss HPV vaccination can book an appointment with one of the GPs for a consultation.

If someone subsequently decides to have the vaccination the cost of this consultation will be deducted from the 'package price', i.e. you would not have to pay twice if you wish to go away and think about the risks and benefits of vaccination.

A full programme of vaccine involves 3 injections into the upper arm, these are given over a 6 month period (at 0, 1 and 6 months). Side effects are usually very mild.

There are two different vaccines on the market to protect against HPV, both cover the two main strains of HPV related to cervical cancer (type 16 and 18). One vaccine is believed to have longer lasting benefit (Cervarix – chosen by the NHS for the national immunisation programme), the other protects against two additional HPV types that cause genital warts (Gardasil – in use in the USA and Australia). The cost for either vaccine is the same.

The clinic doctors are happy to prescribe and give either of these vaccines, depending on patient preference.