

# Incorporating HPV Vaccination Status in **PATIENT HEALTH HISTORY**



In 2020, the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry issued a policy statement that providers should, “educate patients, parents, and guardians on the...relationship of HPV to oral and oropharyngeal cancers. And counsel patients, parents, and guardians regarding the HPV vaccination.”<sup>1</sup> One simple way to accomplish this is to ask about HPV vaccination status as part of a comprehensive patient health history.<sup>2</sup> The HPV vaccine was approved by the FDA in 2020 for the prevention of oropharyngeal cancer.



By asking about HPV vaccination status, patients and parents will begin to understand its connection to oral health. It can also begin the discussion about of your preventive health recommendations.



If you already ask about vaccinations as part of your health history form, simply add HPV to the list **starting at age 9**, using the same language as with the other vaccines.



By including HPV vaccination status in health history, you can now tailor your recommendations:

- “Congrats on getting the first of your HPV dose. Be sure to follow up and get the second dose.”
- “You can start the series with your primary care, or even at a pharmacy. It’s an important part of cancer prevention.”
- “You are due for the HPV vaccine. We can start the vaccination series here today in our office.”

## **SAMPLE LANGUAGE**

[Have you/your child] received the HPV (Human Papillomavirus) Vaccine?

- Yes-Completed the series (2 or 3 shots)
- Yes-Started but have not completed all shots
- No-Have not received any HPV vaccinations
- No-My child is not 9 years old yet.

1. [www.ada.org/resources/ada-library/oral-health-topics/cancer-head-and-neck](http://www.ada.org/resources/ada-library/oral-health-topics/cancer-head-and-neck)

2. Wagner, R. and A. Villa (2017).