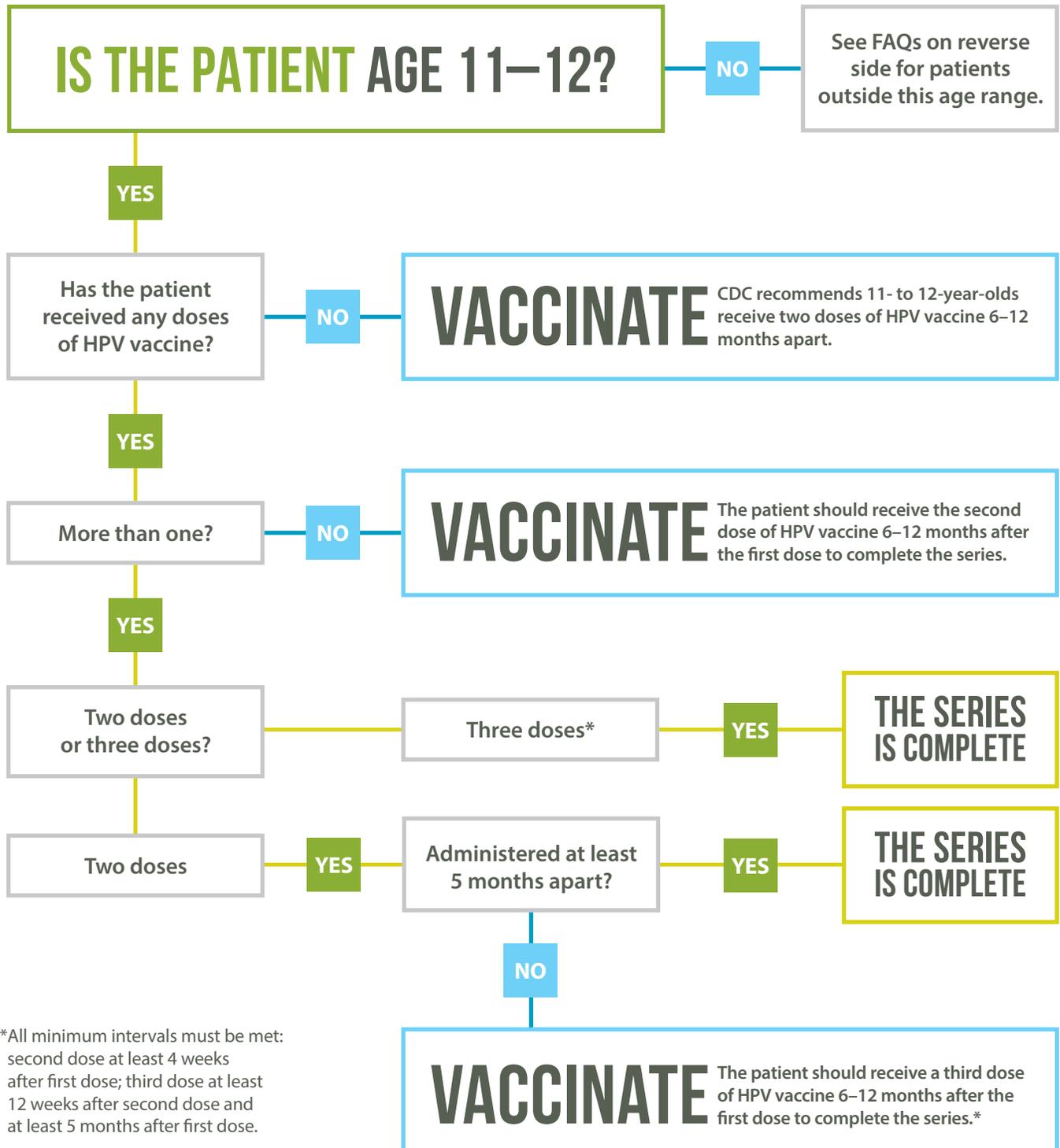


# PREVENTING CANCER JUST GOT EASIER

HPV vaccine protects against cancers and other diseases caused by human papillomavirus (HPV). Follow the chart below to determine whether your patient needs two or three doses of HPV vaccine.



\*All minimum intervals must be met: second dose at least 4 weeks after first dose; third dose at least 12 weeks after second dose and at least 5 months after first dose.

## CDC RECOMMENDS TWO HPV DOSES FOR YOUNGER ADOLESCENTS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) now routinely recommends two doses of HPV vaccine for 11- or 12-year-olds to prevent HPV cancers. This recommendation makes it easier for parents to protect their children by reducing the number of doses and trips to the doctor. HPV vaccination is an important cancer prevention tool and two doses of HPV vaccine will provide safe, effective, and long-lasting protection. Some specifics of the recommendation include:

- A two-dose schedule is recommended for adolescents starting the schedule at ages 9 through 14 years. For this age group, follow the decision tree on the reverse side.
- Adolescents aged 9 through 14 years who have already received two doses of HPV vaccine less

than 5 months apart will require a third dose. The third dose should be given 6–12 months after the first dose to complete the series.

- A three-dose schedule is recommended for teens and young adults who start the series at ages 15 through 26 years. Under this schedule, the second dose of HPV vaccine should be given 1–2 months after the first dose, and the third dose should be given 6 months after the first dose.
- Three doses are recommended for people aged 9–26 years with certain immunocompromising conditions.

Read the full policy note:

[www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6549a5.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6549a5.htm)

## TALKING TO PATIENTS AND THEIR PARENTS ABOUT 2-DOSE SCHEDULES FOR HPV VACCINATION

With patients aged 11–12 years, start the vaccine discussion with their parents by making the following recommendation: ***"Now that your child is 11 (or 12) years old, they are due for three vaccines today to help protect them from the infections that cause meningitis, HPV cancers, and pertussis—or whooping cough."***

Many parents are accepting of this bundled recommendation because it demonstrates that HPV vaccination is a normal part of adolescent vaccination. Parents may be interested in vaccinating, yet still have questions. Some parents might just need additional information from you, the clinician they trust. Clarify the parent's question or what additional information they need.

**For parents who have a question or need more information about "why now/why 11–12?"**

"As with all vaccine-preventable diseases, we want to protect your child early. If we start now, it's one less thing for you to worry about. Also, your child will only need two doses of HPV vaccine at this age. If you wait, your child may need three doses in order to get complete protection. We'll give the first dose today and then you'll need to bring your child back in 6 to 12 months from now for the second dose."

**If a parent asks, or needs more information about "How long can we wait and still give just two doses?"**

"The two-dose schedule is recommended if the series is started before the 15th birthday. However, I don't recommend waiting to give this cancer-preventing vaccine. As children get older and have busier schedules, it becomes more difficult to get them back in. I'd feel best if we started the series today to get your child protected as soon as possible."

**For patients aged 9–14 who have already had two doses given less than 5 months apart**

"The recommended schedule is two doses given 6 to 12 months apart. The minimum amount of time between those doses is 5 months. Because your child received two doses less than 5 months apart, we'll need to give your child a third dose."

**For parents asking about the duration of protection or how well the vaccine will work with just two doses**

"Studies have shown that two doses of HPV vaccine work very well in younger adolescents and we expect the same long-lasting protection with two doses that we expect with three doses." You can also access guidance on answering parents' questions about HPV vaccine by using our tip sheet, *Talking to Parents about HPV Vaccine*, at [www.cdc.gov/HPV](http://www.cdc.gov/HPV).



**HPV VACCINE**  
**IS CANCER PREVENTION**