Dental Offices Play an Important Role in Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Cancer Prevention

Help prevent cancer by doing the following:

- **Promote HPV vaccination:**
  Build on existing primary prevention efforts in your office (e.g., sealants, nutrition and tobacco counseling) by promoting HPV vaccination.

- **Update Medical History Form:**
  Dental providers should make sure that the medical history form includes HPV vaccination information. An opportune time to discuss HPV vaccination is when health history forms are updated.

- **Educate on how HPV vaccination can prevent cancers:**
  HPV is linked to several different male and female cancers. Educate patients, parents, and caregivers on risks and the importance of the HPV vaccine. Reinforce that the HPV vaccine is cancer prevention.

- **Provide clear and concise messaging:**
  The entire dental team should be educated on the safety and effectiveness of HPV vaccines. The CDC recommends routine vaccination of all children at age 11-12 years; vaccine may be given as early as age 9 years, and as catch-up through age 26 years. Some adults aged 27-45 years may also benefit from vaccination.

- **Refer patients to get vaccinated:**
  Patients can get vaccinated by their primary care doctor or local pharmacies that provide HPV vaccinations.

Together we can make a difference

Resources:

1) SmileHabitsOC.org: www.smilehabitsoc.org/hpv/

2) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) resources to give parents:
https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/diseases/hpv-basics-color.pdf

3) American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) HPV Champion Toolkit:
https://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/immunizations/HPV-Champion-Toolkit/Pages/HPV-Champion-Toolkit.aspx

4) HPV Guide for Dental Professionals from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP):
https://www.aap.org/en-us/Documents/AAP_OPCHPV_WhatDentalProsNeedToKnow_final.pdf

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