



January 18, 2010

Blue Cross coverage of Gardasil for males

Background

Recently, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved use of the vaccine Gardasil for the prevention of genital warts (condyloma acuminata) due to human papillomavirus (HPV) types 6 and 11 in boys and men, ages 9 through 26.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), issued a “permissive” recommendation stating that physicians have the option of vaccinating boys with the HPV vaccine Gardasil (Merck) for genital wart protection.

Medical Policy

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus medical policy *Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (Gardasil), II-64* is in the process of being updated with medical necessity criteria for males. Following a 90-day notification period, we anticipate the changes to this policy to be effective in April, 2010.

Coverage

To enhance claims processing, Blue Cross will implement system edits as soon as possible to allow payment of Gardasil for males ages 9 through 26. These edits will be in place before the actual effective date of our updated policy. Claims denied before our system update can be appealed.

Based on ACIP’s permissive recommendation of Gardasil coverage for males, Blue Cross will process claims for males ages 9 through 26 under the **medical benefit**. Claims for Gardasil and Cervarix for females ages 9 through 26 will process under the **preventive benefit** for routine vaccinations.

Location of medical policies (new or revised) before their effective date

Blue Cross medical and behavioral health policies are available for your use and review on the Blue Cross website at providers.bluecrossmn.com. Select “Medical policy” under “Tools & Resources” read and accept the Blue Cross Medical Policy Statement and then select “View All Active Policies.” To view new or revised policies approved by the Blue Cross Medical and Behavioral Health Policy Committee, select “Upcoming Policies.” These policies are effective 90 days from the date they were posted to the “Upcoming Policies” section of the Medical and Behavioral Health Policy Manual.

Questions?

If you have questions, please contact provider services at **(651) 662-5200** or toll free at **1-800-262-0820**.