



Federation of Medical Women of Canada Fédération des femmes médecins du Canada

THE FEDERATION OF MEDICAL WOMEN OF CANADA CALLS FOR EQUITABLE FUNDING FOR HPV VACCINE

Provincial and territorial governments urged to update school-based HPV vaccination programs to include boys

OTTAWA, Ontario February 7, 2012: The Federation of Medical Women of Canada (FMWC) urges provincial governments to provide funding for the vaccination of boys against the human papilloma virus (HPV) in their current school-based vaccination programs – because vaccinating girls alone is neither equitable nor using the vaccine to its maximum advantage.

“Both sexes contribute to the transmission of HPV. Both sexes are at risk of developing a variety of HPV-related diseases – including cancer. So it follows that both sexes should be protected. But currently, that’s not the case,” stated Dr. Vivien Brown for the Federation of Medical Women of Canada.

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) has updated its recommendations on HPV vaccination. NACI now recommends the quadrivalent HPV vaccine in males between 9 and 26 years of age for the prevention of genital warts, anal cancer and anal pre-cancers. NACI’s first recommendation for the HPV vaccine – to protect Canadian girls and women aged nine to 26 against a broad spectrum of HPV-related diseases – was made in January 2007. The quadrivalent HPV vaccine is the only HPV vaccine indicated and recommended for both boys and girls.

“The Federation of Medical Women of Canada supported public funding for female vaccination in 2007. Our call for equitable access for both sexes is a logical extension of our original position. What we are asking for now is public funding that reflects the latest NACI recommendation. HPV is as much a men’s health issue as a women’s health issue.”

About the FMWC

The Federation of Medical Women of Canada (FMWC) is a national organization committed to the professional, social and personal advancement of women physicians and to the promotion of the well-being of women both in the medical profession and in society at large. Established in 1924, the FMWC is also an independent nation member of the Medical Women's International Association. For more information, please visit: www.fmwcc.ca

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