



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

National Office for Public
Health/ChildHealth
Strategic Planning &
Transformation,
Health Service Executive,
Public Health Department,
Second Floor,
Mount Kennett House,
Henry Street,
Limerick

Post Code V94KN3N

Tel: (061) 483347

Fax: (061) 464205

Website: <http://www.hse.ie>

14th Sept. 2020

Deputy Alan Kelly
TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin2

PQ Question 22913/20: To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of providing the HPV vaccine for free to adults that have not received it but want to access it through their general practitioner; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Kelly

The above PQ has been directed to my office for direct response to you on same.

The Department of Health are guided on matters of immunisation policy by the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC). NIAC has not made any recommendation to extend the HPV vaccine to all adults.

NIAC recommends that the vaccine be offered to all children aged 12-13 years old. It also states that ideally, the vaccine should be administered before potential exposure to HPV through sexual contact. Those who are sexually active should be advised that the vaccine has not been shown to have a therapeutic effect on existing HPV infection or cervical lesions.

The HSE HPV immunisation programme has been offered to girls in first year of second level school since 2010, with a catch-up programme for 6th year students from September 2011 – August 2014. Therefore, girls up to the age of 28 years old will have been offered the HPV vaccine via the HSE programme whilst they were in school

Men who have sex with men (MSM) are recommended to be vaccinated up to 45 years and they can access HPV vaccine free of charge through sexual health clinics.

There has not been a recommendation to vaccinate all those who wish to be vaccinated but do not fall within the programme cohort; therefore no comment can be made on the cost of the programme.

I trust this information will be of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Kelleher', with a horizontal line underneath.

DR. KEVIN KELLEHER, FFPHM, FFPHMI
ASSISTANT NATIONAL DIRECTOR –PUBLIC HEALTH/CHILD HEALTH
OFFICE OF CHIEF CLINICAL OFFICER
Medical registration number 19719