



UK Health  
Security  
Agency



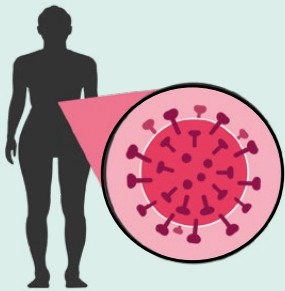
## Easy read guide to the HPV vaccination for gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM)



**This leaflet is to give you information  
about how the HPV vaccine can help  
people stop getting cancer**



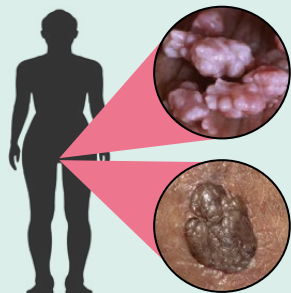
## What is the HPV virus?



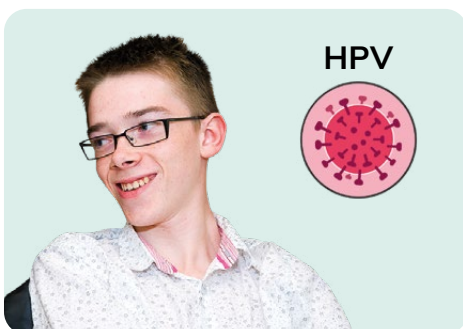
Human papilloma virus is also known as HPV. HPV is a common virus lots of people get



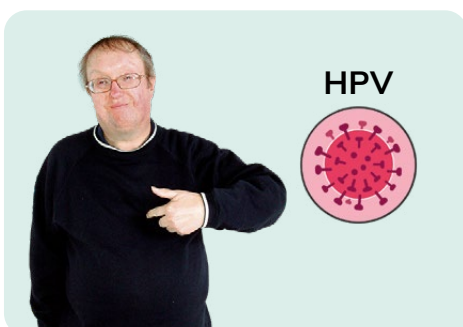
There is a vaccine that people can get to help stop them getting HPV



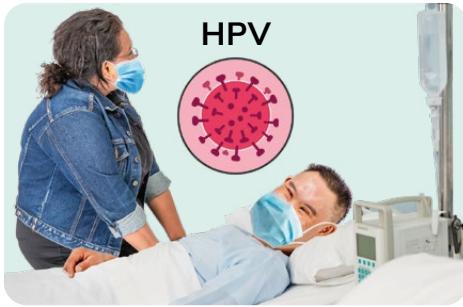
There are different types of HPV infections that can cause different symptoms like warts on your genitals or cancer



Some types of HPV do not cause any symptoms and it can go away by itself but sometimes it doesn't

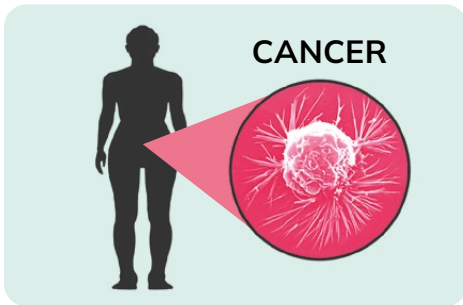


A lot of people that have not had the vaccine will get HPV so it is very important to have it



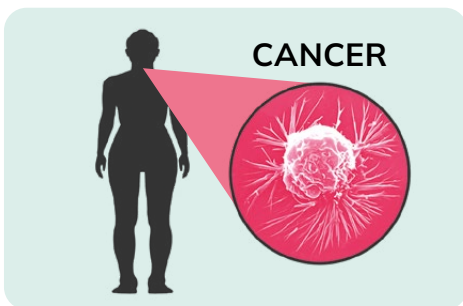
Having HPV means you are more likely to get some types of cancers

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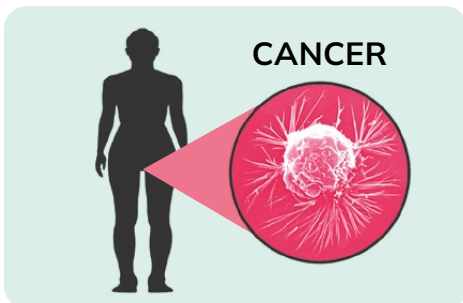
Cervical cancer  
(this is a cancer in the lower part of the womb)

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Some mouth and throat cancers

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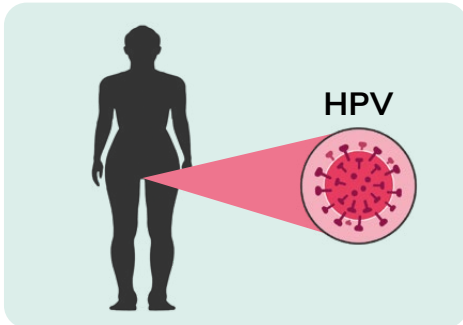
Some cancers in the bum and genital areas

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The HPV vaccine helps to stop you getting the HPV virus

## How do people get HPV infection?



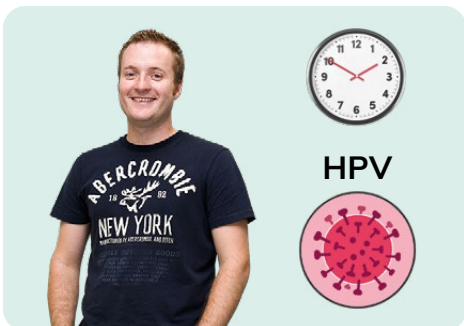
HPV is on the skin in and around the whole genital area, this is where your penis or vagina and anus are



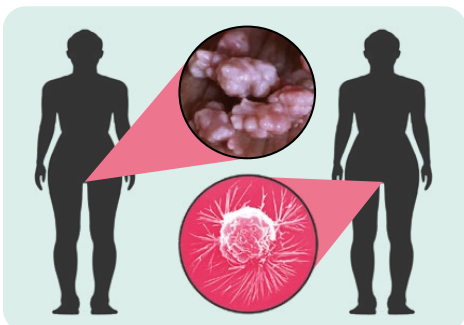
Using condoms when having sex will not always stop you from getting HPV



But using condoms does still protect you from other infections so you should still use one when having sex



Some HPV infections can get better on their own



But other HPV infections do not clear up and can lead to cancer and others can cause warts on your genitals

## The HPV vaccine



The HPV vaccine has been given to people all over the world to help stop this virus from spreading and causing cancers and genital warts

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The HPV vaccine is offered to gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM) who are up to and including 45 years of age

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The HPV vaccine helps protect both men and women from cancers that HPV makes you more likely to get

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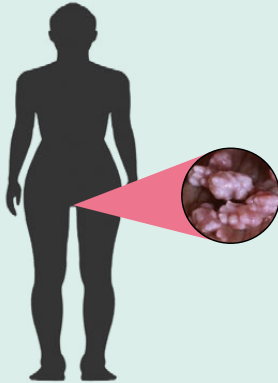
But the HPV vaccine does not stop you getting other infections which you can get when you have sex. So it is still important to have safe sex

[www.choicesupport.org.uk/uploads/documents/Love-Sex-and-Relationships-BOC-Easy-Read-Policy-and-Guidelines-Feb-2017.pdf](http://www.choicesupport.org.uk/uploads/documents/Love-Sex-and-Relationships-BOC-Easy-Read-Policy-and-Guidelines-Feb-2017.pdf)

## What difference has the HPV vaccine made so far?



The HPV vaccine has saved lots of lives in the UK so far by stopping people getting some types of cancer



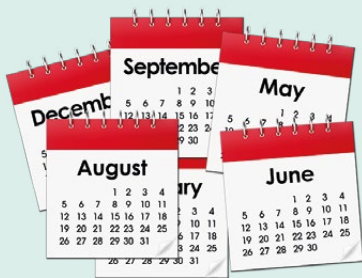
It has also meant that a lot less young people get genital warts

You will be given a record card after your first dose of vaccine. Keep it in a safe place

## Having the HPV vaccine



The vaccine is given in your arm



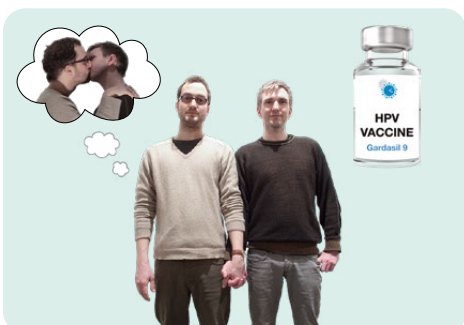
The vaccine is available from specialist Sexual Health Services (SHSs) and HIV clinics



Some people will need to have three doses of the vaccine to give them the best protection. Your doctor or practice nurse will tell you if you need to have more doses



The vaccine should be given before you start having sex with others to give you the best protection



But even if you are already having sex you should still have the vaccine to help stop you getting HPV

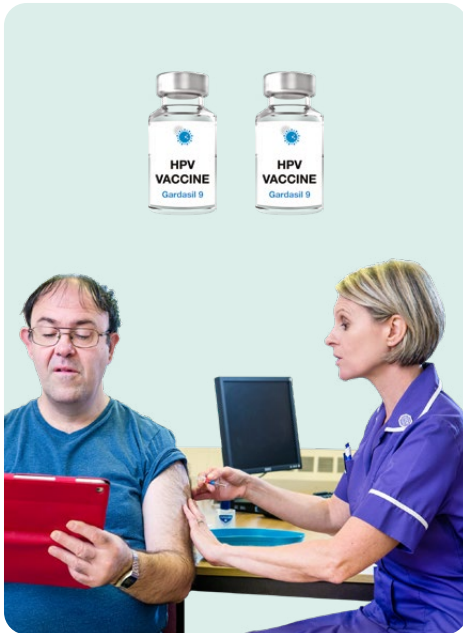
## The vaccine



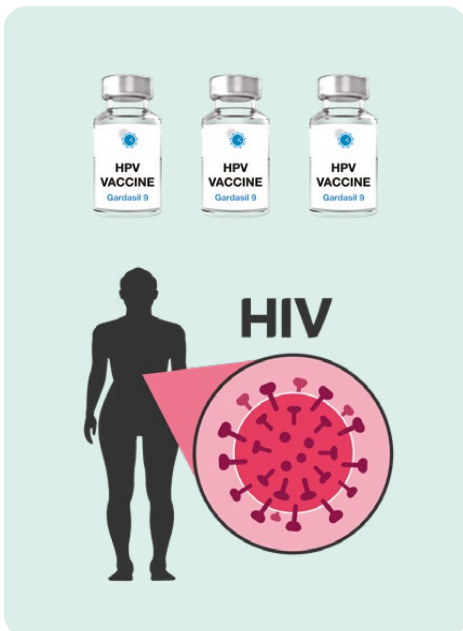
The name of the vaccine is Gardasil 9



If you are aged under 25 years, you will receive a single dose

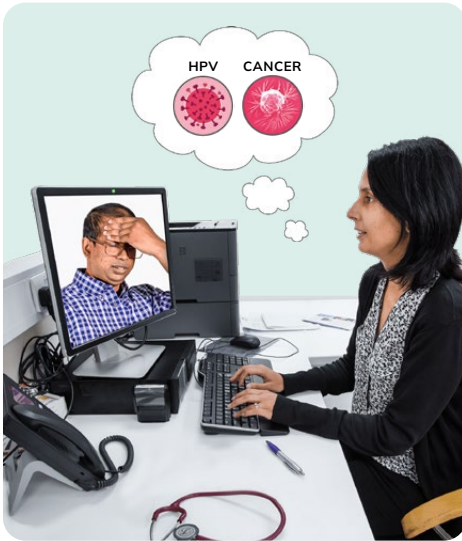


If you are aged 25 years and over (up to 45th birthday), you will receive a course of 2 doses given at least 6 months apart



If you are HIV+ or have a weakened immune system (immunocompromised) you will require 3 doses of vaccine at 0, 1 and 4 to 6 months

## What about the other cancers?



If you have HPV it means you may be more likely to get other types of cancers too but there are not any screening tests for these



If you or your parents or carers are worried about any symptoms, speak to your doctor (GP)

## Further information



[www.easyhealth.org.uk/  
resources/412-what-is-mouth-cancer](http://www.easyhealth.org.uk/resources/412-what-is-mouth-cancer)

For more information about possible side effects of the vaccine or to see the patient information leaflet for the vaccine, visit [www.nhs.uk/  
vaccinations/hpv-vaccine](http://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/hpv-vaccine)



For more information, speak to your doctor or a health professional or visit [www.nhs.uk/hpv](http://www.nhs.uk/hpv)

A complete list of what is in the Gardasil 9 vaccine is given in the Patient Information Leaflet (PIL):

[www.medicines.org.uk/emc/  
product/7330/pil](http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/7330/pil)

Being up to date with your routine vaccinations is important



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UK Health Security Agency gateway number: 2023141.

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