

HPV Vaccine

Reference Number: RDF2404-24

Date of Response: 08/04/24

Further to your Freedom of Information Act request, please find the Trust's response(s) below:

Dear Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust,

Men are ordered the HPV vaccine at school. The vaccine is available to men under the age of 45 who have sex with men for free. If a woman has not been injected at school, there is a small window of opportunity for them to receive the jab as she can only receive it until she is 25. This window opportunity for women if they are not vaccinated at school is disproportionately small compared to the flexible period of time available for a man to receive the jab for free after school. The criteria for men is also open very flexible - "men who have sex with men". That could include a man who has sex with one man who receives the injection free of cost.

Please clarify the logic for the criteria with specific reference to any relevant facts and the cost of the vaccine. This should make specific reference to why women over the age of 25 who have sex with men are unable to have the vaccine provided free of cost against a man who has sex with one man once in his life who can have the vaccine for free until the age of 45.

Answer: The Freedom of Information Act allows the public to ask for copies of information held. If requested information is not held in documentation within the Trust; we are unable to release information in response to this FOI.

The Trust follow guidelines from NHS England and the UK Health and Security Agency.

We provide the HPV vaccine for Men who are sexual active with Men (MSM) via our Sexual Health Service but do not provide the HPV vaccine for any other group. An overview of the HPV vaccine is found here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/hpv-human-papillomavirus-vaccine/>

and more information on HPV here

: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/human-papilloma-virus-hpv/>.

For a fuller look into the changes around the HPV vaccine and eligibility then a good starting point is here

: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hpv-universal-vaccination-guidance-for-health-professionals/hpv-vaccination-guidance-for-healthcare-practitioners>