



The Maryland State Medical Society

News: For Immediate Release

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JANUARY IS CERVICAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

BALTIMORE, January 6, 2014 – January is Cervical Health Awareness Month. MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society wants you to know that there's a lot you can do to prevent cervical cancer. About 20 million Americans currently have HPV (human papillomavirus), the most common sexually transmitted disease. HPV is a major cause of cervical cancer. The good news is that HPV can be prevented by the HPV vaccine.

Cervical cancer can often be prevented with regular screening tests (called Pap tests) and follow-up care. In honor of National Cervical Health Awareness Month, MedChi encourages women to start getting regular Pap tests at age 21 and get the HPV vaccine before age 27. Men should get the HPV vaccine if they are under age 22.

Parents are encouraged to make sure their pre-teens (male and female) get the HPV vaccine at age 11 or 12.

“HPV is a health concern for everyone. Awareness must be raised to protect women from cervical cancer and from HPV,” explained MedChi President, H. Russell Wright, Jr., MD.

Thanks to the health care reform law, you and your family members may be able to get these services at no cost to you. Check with your insurance company.

Taking small steps can help keep you safe and healthy. For more information, visit <http://healthfinder.gov/HealthTopics/Keyword#c>.

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.