

MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution 17-15

INTRODUCED BY: Public Health Committee
Maternal and Child Health Subcommittee

SUBJECT: Promotion of HPV Vaccination and Prevention of HPV Related Cancers
in Residents of Maryland

- 1 Whereas, human papillomavirus (HPV) infection is ubiquitous in the population, asymptomatic, and is
2 known to be the cause of cervical, vulvar/vaginal, anal, penile and oropharyngeal cancer and genital
3 warts; and
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- 5 Whereas, the cost for treatment of 12,000 new cervical cancers per year in the United States is estimated
6 at 8 billion dollars, with 4,000 deaths; and
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- 8 Whereas, studies have found that 60 – 80 % of oropharyngeal cancers are HPV positive and the
9 President’s Cancer Panel has called attention to a rising incidence of oropharyngeal cancers, four times
10 greater in men than women, and projected that the number of oropharyngeal cancers will exceed those of
11 cervical cancer by the year 2020; and
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- 13 Whereas, current treatment modalities for HPV cervical infection and for cancer result in long term
14 adverse reproductive consequences; and
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- 16 Whereas, HPV vaccines currently in use (2 or 4 valent) cover the two strains of HPV known to cause
17 75% of cervical cancer and most oropharyngeal cancers and a new 9 valent vaccine has been found to
18 prevent 97% of cervical cancers; and
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- 20 Whereas, immunization is not effective in treating or preventing cancers once an individual is infected;
21 therefore be it
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- 23 Resolved, that MedChi strongly requests the Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
24 to declare the prevention of HPV-related cancers a major public health priority for Maryland; and be it
25 further
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- 27 Resolved, that MedChi requests that the Secretary institute a statewide campaign to immunize all children
28 against HPV at the CDC recommended ages, addressing known barriers to that goal – costs of vaccine,
29 parental consent requirement, and inadequate venues for reaching all children; and be it further
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- 31 Resolved, that MedChi encourage the endorsement of universal childhood HPV immunization by
32 component and specialty societies, stressing the benefits of prevention of the adulthood consequences of
33 cervical, vulvar/vaginal, anal, penile, and oropharyngeal cancer.
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37 As adopted by the House of Delegates at its meeting on September 19, 2015.
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