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NL physicians' intentions to recommend the HPV vaccine to male youth – in progress

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Purpose: The purpose of this mixed methods research is to better understand physicians' intentions to recommend the vaccine for their young (9-18 year old) male patients in Newfoundland and Labrador (NL). In 2012, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization recommended expanding population-based programs beyond females and cervical cancer to reduce the burden of illness associated with other types of HPV-related cancers and to include males in vaccine coverage as part of "a thoughtful risk-based approach" to HPV infections. Some male youth are less likely to benefit from female-only population-based vaccination programs (currently in place in NL) and are at greater risk for anal, penile, head and neck cancers in addition to genital warts. Previous research indicates that a physician's recommendation is a primary predictor for HPV vaccination. Family doctors, pediatricians, oncologists and gynecologists are the specialties best positioned to advise parents about the HPV vaccine for male youth and are the focus of this arm of the study. **Methods:** The HREB approved this research. Data will be collected from family doctors, pediatricians, oncologists and gynecologists who are currently registered to practice in NL. The survey will be conducted online using Fluid Surveys software. Individual interviews will be conducted both in person and online. Survey results will be entered into SPSS and summarized using descriptive statistics. Interview data will be coded and analyzed thematically. The rates of recommendation and/or intention to recommend the HPV vaccine will be compared across the four regional health authorities. Data collection will be completed by November 1. **Results:** Preliminary findings about physicians' attitudes, knowledge and clinical practice relating to HPV vaccination will be presented. Possible predictive factors are physician age, gender, religious affiliation, years of practice and willingness to vaccinate their own sons and daughters. **Conclusions:** The evidence generated from this study intends to identify factors predicting the intention to recommend the HPV vaccine and potential opportunities for positively impacting physician attitude, knowledge and practice through undergraduate and post-graduate medical education. **Disclosure Statement:** The study is funded by a Janeway Foundation Research Award. The Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association is one of our community partners.