



29th October 2007

In response to the Government's announcement on the introduction of an HPV immunisation programme, Dr Simon Barton, President, **British Association For Sexual Health & HIV (BASHH)** commented:

Dr Simon Barton, President of the British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH) said: We are delighted with the announcement that the Government will be introducing an HPV immunisation programme to vaccinate girls against cervical cancer.

"BASHH would however strongly urge that the programme includes vaccination against HPV types 6 and 11, which are the commonest causes of genital warts.

"Approximately 80,000 patients attend GUM clinics and other sexual health Departments in the UK each year with genital warts. Inclusion of the vaccine that covers the strain for genital warts would have immense health and cost benefits.

"Such a programme would also give early economical benefits as the effect on genital warts amongst young people will be noted within 3-4 years, whereas the cervical cancer benefits won't be noted until after 10 years.

"In particular, this could help to alleviate some of the pressures currently experienced by GUM clinics, making time and resources available to increase access for those with other serious infections."

- Ends -

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