BASHH MEDIA STATEMENT
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BASHH welcomes HPV vaccine decision, and calls for vaccination of young homosexual men at sexual health clinics

The British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH) today welcomed news that the Government are switching to a multi-purpose HPV vaccine.

Peter Greenhouse, spokesperson for the British Association of Sexual Health and HIV commented:

“All of us at BASHH are delighted by the news that the next generation of teenage girls will receive a multi-purpose HPV vaccine which will protect them against cervical cancer AND genital warts.

“The UK-wide school cervical cancer vaccination campaign has produced higher rates of coverage than achieved in any other country – if we can keep this up we should expect to see genital wart infections start to reduce in teenage girls within five years, and slightly later in boys: If we continue to vaccinate just 70% of 12-to-13 year-old girls, we can predict** that genital warts should be eradicated in heterosexual women and men within 20 years, through the herd immunity effect.

“We would also want to make sure that the vaccine is made freely available to young homosexual men on their first visit to Sexual Health clinics – along the same lines as the successful Hepatitis B vaccination programme – to make sure that they can also benefit from protection against anal & oral cancer and genital warts.”

BASHH have been making the case for the multi-purpose vaccination since the previous purchasing decision in 2008: A survey conducted earlier this year found that 93% of UK sexual health clinicians would advise friends and colleagues to obtain the multi-purpose vaccination for their daughters, and that 63% with teenage daughters had paid privately for the multi-purpose vaccine rather than accept the free single-purpose vaccine provided at schools.

** Prediction of genital wart eradication – please see reference over page

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Notes to Editors:

- The single-purpose vaccine (Cervavix) protects patients against strains 16 and 18 of HPV which are responsible for around 70% of cervical cancer cases. The multi-purpose vaccine (Gardasil) additionally protects against over 90% of genital warts, minor (non-serious) cervical smear abnormalities, and Juvenile Onset Recurrent Respiratory Papillomatosis (warts on the vocal cords) which is passed from mother to baby.

- The British Association for Sexual Health and HIV – BASHH – is the professional organisation for clinical staff and researchers working in the UK’s sexual health clinics. It sets standards for clinical care, training and education, and supports Public Health by treatment and prevention of infections and care of other conditions related to sexual health. For more information please visit [www.bashh.org](http://www.bashh.org)

- BASHH media spokesperson Peter Greenhouse FRCOG FFSRH, Consultant in Sexual Health at Bristol & Weston, is available for comment via the number above.

- Reference for vaccine coverage rates:

- Reference for prediction of eradication of genital warts in heterosexuals within 20 years: