**Sample Letter: Encourage Physicians to Recommend HPV Vaccination for Cervical Cancer Prevention**

*How to use this template*  
This document provides a pre-written letter from a medical society to its members to urge HPV vaccination to prevent cervical cancer. Tailor the message by modifying sections highlighted in yellow. Add your organization’s logo as appropriate. **Be certain to delete this section before sending.**

Dear Physician,

[INSERT NAME OF REGIONAL OR LOCAL MEDICAL SOCIETY] is proud to join with the Indian Academy of Pediatrics, Asia-Oceania Research Organisation in Genital Infection and Neoplasia, Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India (FOGSI) and the Indian Medical Association to recommend that all young adolescent girls receive the vaccine to protect against human papillomavirus (HPV).

A strong recommendation from a physician is one of the most important factors in whether a girl receives the vaccine. We must not miss an opportunity to deliver this life-saving vaccination. It is our responsibility to make sure we explain why HPV vaccination is essential to young girls’ health. As physicians, we must commit to prioritising this vaccine in our clinics and hospitals.

Tragically, more than 77,000 women die from cervical cancer in India each year [1], which is one woman every 8 minutes. Fortunately, cervical cancer is preventable. We have a vaccine that can prevent the HPV infections that lead to most cervical cancers when the vaccine is given on time to girls between 9 and 14 years old [2, 3]. HPV vaccination is safe, effective, and long-lasting. As one of the most researched vaccines available, millions of girls have safely received the HPV vaccine since it became available in 2006 [4]. Countries that were early adopters of HPV vaccination are seeing dramatic reductions in cervical pre-cancers and cancers [5, 6]. With the recent decision to add the HPV vaccine to India’s Universal Immunization Programme, there is no better time to focus on protecting girls with HPV vaccination.

**What you say matters; how you say it matters even more.**

It is not often that we have an opportunity to prevent cancer, so we must act on it starting now. Every year, thousands of girls are missing out on HPV vaccination – a simple tool to prevent cancer. Your recommendation as a physician is critical for vaccination uptake and administration. Consider these actions:

* Recommend the HPV vaccine to the parents of all 9- to -14-year-old girls, the same way as you recommend Tdap [7].
* Parents may be interested in vaccinating, yet still have questions. Take the time to educate them about the cervical cancer prevention benefits of the HPV vaccine. Reassure them by answering their questions [8, 9].
* Show your confidence in the HPV vaccine by sharing if you vaccinated the girls in your family [9].
* Follow up with those who initially say no [9].

I hope that this letter and the attached key facts about the safety and effectiveness of HPV vaccination will support you in recommending the HPV vaccine to adolescent girls 9- to 14-years-old. Your recommendation will reflect your commitment to prevent cervical cancer and eliminate one of India’s greatest public health challenges.

I am asking you today to be part of the solution in creating a generation of Indian women free from the pain and suffering caused by cervical cancer.

Sincerely,

[INSERT NAME], [INSERT ORGANISATION]

**References**

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