

Hello,

I'm a family physician writing in support of allowing minors to consent to prevention of STI's, including HPV and hepatitis B vaccination and HIV prophylaxis.

In my role, I perform colposcopies for surveillance of precancerous changes of the cervix. This is a very invasive procedure which must often be repeated multiple times over the course of years to monitor for development of cervical cancer. Cervical cancer is caused by HPV, a sexually-transmitted virus for which we have a vaccine! The best time for people to receive the vaccine is during adolescence - because the immune response is stronger at younger ages and because it is best for people to get it *before* they start having exposures (i.e. before they start having sex). The fewer barriers there are to providing this vaccine at the right age, the better!

Adolescents deserve to be able to make decisions that will protect their health for the rest of their lives! Please feel free to reach out if you have questions.

Sincerely,
Michelle Dorwart, MD, MPH