

Laws mandating HPV Vaccination: A Case Study

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The articles below pertain to the pros and cons of laws aiming to mandate HPV vaccination. The main point of this case is to determine if it is ethical for certain health practices to be legally mandated. In this case, should certain vaccines be required by law, and if so, could certain groups be allowed to remain exempt? It is important to consider this point in medical practice, because patients may want to opt out of health practices that are required by law (such as vaccination for children attending public school), and physicians must be prepared to discuss both the medical and legal reasoning.

HPV vaccine: Who chooses? Los Angeles Times

<http://articles.latimes.com/2007/feb/05/health/he-hpv5>

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/health/hpv-vaccine-state-legislation-and-statutes.aspx>

Discussion Questions:

1. Should the HPV vaccine be mandatory for any demographic?
2. If mandated, at what age do you think it would be appropriate for girls to be vaccinated?
3. In what situations or under what conditions should girls be exempt from this mandate?
4. Do you believe the HPV vaccine should be considered similar to other childhood vaccinations?
5. How do you think the HPV vaccine should be explained to girls who are receiving it and are not yet sexually active?
6. Do you believe parents of minors should be able to influence whether or not the minor receives the vaccine?