

**Please note – This is an extract from a student’s response for one of three articles**

The article is the Ministry of Health’s School consent form: ‘*HPV Vaccine (Human Papillomavirus Vaccine) A vaccine to help prevent cervical cancer.*’

3

This article was written by the NZ Ministry of Health.

The reason is because it is free, and has a lot of information about the HPV virus for parents and year eight girl. It is to ask for their consent to immunise their child for free. The form and lots of other information are available to the general public. The target audience is the year eight girls and their parents in New Zealand. The information is about the HPV virus and getting the vaccine Gardasil.

4

One biological feature is, “*Cervical Cancer develops when HPV infections don't clear and cause abnormal cells to grow on the cervix. If these cells go undetected and untreated they can lead to cervical cancer.*”

1

This is accurate, because when someone has sexual contact with someone who is a carrier of HPV, the virus gets into the cells in the cervix of the vagina and reproduces. If this process is allowed to continue over a long period of time, this can lead to cervical cancer and other problems.

1

The HPV virus goes through different stages. The article shows this in a diagram. Sometimes, only a few cells are changed and sometimes they clear up on their own. This can be checked in a regular Smear or Pap test. When it is really bad and not checked up on early enough, then the person can die.

1

Another biological feature is, “*The vaccine causes the immune system to produce its own protection against four HPV types.*”

This is accurate because Gardasil is a weakened vaccine. The antigen in the vaccine is the protein of HPV, produced by using DNA technology. The proteins change into low risk virus-like particles. That means that it has antigens in it that stimulate the immune system to produce antibodies against it. This is how it works.

2

The vested interest of this form is the Ministry of Health. Their plan is to improve and protect the health of all New Zealanders, and save us money.

They are giving the free vaccination because they want to help protect these young girls from any form of HPV infection that lead to most cervical cancers and genital warts.

From the articles I read there are two sides to the story when using Gardasil. The ones that present the true facts are the best, even when they talk about side effects. Sometimes the information is too hard for people to understand because of the science information in them. The best ones use diagrams to show how the vaccine works.

The consent form is very technical in parts and the parents would need to read up on more sides of the issue to be well informed.

I think the Ministry of Health should make the vaccine available to more than one year level at school in case children were not vaccinated when they were in year 8. If they made it available to both year 8 and 9 and maybe even year 10 it would be safer for the community.