

Memorandum of Understanding

The Ministry of Health, Royal Government of Bhutan and the Australian Cervical Cancer Foundation (ACCF) and Merck & Company have agreed to undertake the Human Papilloma Virus vaccination programme in Bhutan for the prevention of cervical cancer among the females population. The Memorandum of Understanding shall be in effect from the date of signing.

Background

Cervical cancer is estimated to affect approximately 500,000 women each year, 80 % of women live in developing countries. It is a leading cause of cancer death in women in these countries. The cumulative risk of developing cervical cancer before age 65 is approximately 1.5% in developing countries, compared to 0.8% in industrialized countries. The risk of dying from cervical cancer is also substantially higher in developing countries, where it represents about 15% of all female cancer.

In Bhutan cervical cancer is the number one malignancy diagnosed in women. It is the second most common cancer after stomach and more than half are diagnosed in late stages, leading to high mortality. Presently there is no radiation therapy facility available in the country and all the patients requiring radiation therapy are sent to neighbouring countries at a huge cost to the Government.

The studies have shown that HPV vaccination of adolescents before their sexual debut is found to be highly efficacious against future HPV infection and Gardasil is one such vaccine presently available in the global market.

The HPV vaccination programme is thus instituted to prevent and reduce the incidence of cervical cancer and reduce the burden of the disease among the Bhutanese females.

Goal:

- Contribute to overall reduction of maternal mortality and achieve MDG 4 and 5.
- Reducing the incidence of HPV infections in women and hereby reduction incidence of cervical cancer.

Specific objectives:

- To immunize all girls between 12-18 years of age through mass immunization campaign
- Starting in 2011 introduction of HPV vaccine into the routine immunization schedule at 0, 2 & 6 months for Bhutanese girls, 12 years of age.
- Improve and strengthen Maternal and child health in the country.

Support from the Australian Cervical Cancer Foundation and Merck & Co.

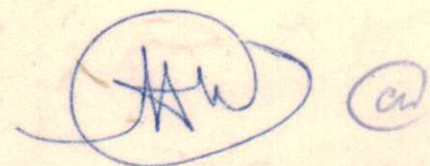
Australian Cervical Cancer Foundation (ACCF) and Merck & company shall commit to provide HPV vaccine Gardasil for 5 years:

Vaccine supply schedule (year wise)	Number of doses
March/April 2010	185229
2011	35046
2012	40302
2013	46347
2014	53325

The total doses of HPV Gardasil over the five years period till the year 2014 will be 369849 doses. The ACCF and Merck & Company will provide all the vaccines to the Royal Government namely Ministry of Health and will have the vaccines delivered till the Paro Airport free of cost.

The ACCF with the support of AUSAID will also support the Cervical Cancer screening programme which is presently ongoing in the country. The ACCF will

2




The ACCF with the support of AUSAID will also support the Cervical Cancer screening programme which is presently ongoing in the country. The ACCF will explore to support the Royal Government of Bhutan for the HPV vaccination programme beyond 2015.

Responsibilities of the Royal Government of Bhutan:

Programmatic and Logistic:

The launch of the vaccination programme will start with a catch-up mass vaccination campaign covering all the girls from the age of 12 - 18 years. This would include both the girls in the schools and out of the school. The mass campaign is tentatively scheduled to take place in March 2010 and subsequently for girls of 12 years of age in the routine immunization programme. The programmatic and logistic cost including the training of health workers for the mass catch-up campaign and for routine immunization programme will be mobilised by the Royal Government of Bhutan.

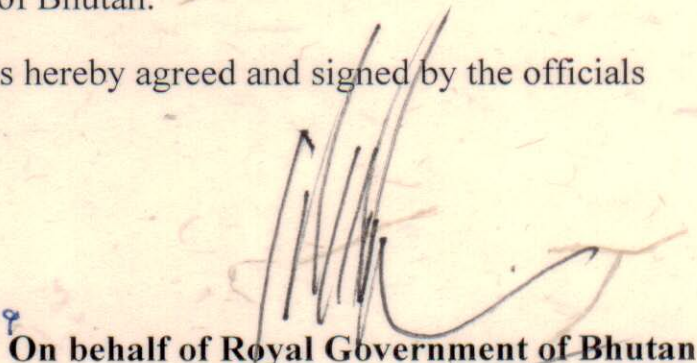
The memorandum of understanding is hereby agreed and signed by the officials represented hereunder.



21 August 2009

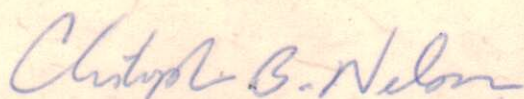
On behalf of ACCF

Michael T. Wille OAM
Executive Chairman



On behalf of Royal Government of Bhutan

Lyonpo Zangley Dukpa
Minister of Health



On behalf of Merck & Co. Inc.

Christopher Bruce Nelson
Senior Director, International Medical Affairs
Vaccines Division

