



**HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS  
VACCINE (HPV) FACT  
SHEET FOR HEALTH CARE  
WORKERS IN BOTSWANA**



FS 739935



Promoting access to safe medicines

## 1. Indication

The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is used to prevent diseases caused by HPV, including:

### Cancers caused by HPV:

- Cervical cancer
- Vulvar and vaginal cancers
- Anal cancer
- Penile cancer
- Certain head and neck (oropharyngeal) cancers

### Non-cancerous conditions caused by HPV:

- Genital warts (caused by HPV types 6 and 11)

## 2. Administration

Age	Regimen	Schedule
9 through 14 years	3-dose	At 0, 6 and 12 months
15 through 45 years	3-dose	At 0, 2, 6 months

### Route of administration:

The vaccine should be administered intramuscularly in either:

- The deltoid muscle of the upper arm (preferred site)
- The higher anterolateral area of the thigh

**Do not administer the vaccine intravenously, intradermally, or subcutaneously.**

**Important: Health care workers should always consult the vaccine information leaflet included with the product for detailed preparation and administration instructions.**

## 3. Warnings and Precautions

Fainting (syncope), sometimes resulting in falls and injury, may occur after HPV vaccination. It is recommended to observe individuals for at least 15 minutes after vaccination.

Syncope may be accompanied by seizure-like activity, including tonic-clonic movements, which are usually short-lived and resolve with measures to improve blood flow to the brain, such as placing the person in a supine or Trendelenburg position.

## 4. Contraindications

**Do not administer the vaccine to individuals with:**

- A history of severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) to a previous dose of the HPV vaccine
- A severe allergic reaction to any component of the vaccine, including yeast-derived proteins (some formulations contain yeast)
- Pregnancy is not an absolute contraindication, but vaccination should be postponed until after delivery

## 5. Adverse Reactions

**Common side effects include:**

- Pain, redness, or swelling at the injection site
- Headache
- Fever
- Fatigue
- Muscle or joint pain
- Fainting (syncope), particularly in adolescents

### **Serious allergic reactions**

- (e.g, anaphylaxis) are rare but can occur.

### **6. Adverse Event Reporting in Botswana:**

Health care workers are encouraged to report any suspected adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) to BoMRA. Reporting helps monitor vaccine safety and protect public health. Even if you are uncertain whether the vaccine caused the reaction, reporting ensures potential concerns are identified early.

#### **Steps to report an AEFI:**

1. Scan the QR code provided
2. Accept the terms and conditions
3. Complete the reporting form with all available information
4. Submit the form



#### **Or contact:**

**Email:** [aefi@bomra.co.bw](mailto:aefi@bomra.co.bw)

**Telephone:** 3731727

📍 Plot 112, International Finance Park, Gaborone  
✉ Private Bag 2, Gaborone Station, Botswana  
☎ +267 373 1727/20  
☎ Toll Free : 0800 600 216  
✉ info@bomra.co.bw  
f Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority  
🌐 [www.bomra.co.bw](http://www.bomra.co.bw)



FS 739935



Promoting access to safe medicines