Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)

The National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) has recommended the introduction of HPV vaccine in the UIP. NTAGI is an advisory body that recommends vaccines for India’s Universal Immunization Programme (UIP).

**Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) is a group of more than 150 viruses.** It is usually harmless and goes away by itself. However, some types cause papilloma or warts in parts of the body. HPV spreads by skin-to-skin contact and is the most common sexually transmitted infection.

**HPV is commonly associated with cervical cancer.** India has one of the world’s highest burdens of HPV-related cancer and around 67,000 women die from this disease each year. HPV vaccines offered by private firms face clinical trial issues in India on concerns of side-effects; Supreme Court is yet to decide.