



Adult Immunizations

Tip Sheet

Background

Vaccine-preventable diseases are significantly more common in adults than in children with more than 50,000 adults dying from vaccine-preventable diseases each year. Adult immunization rates remain low in the United States, and the public health impact of vaccine-preventable diseases and their complications is likely to grow with our aging population. Providers play an important role in ensuring all adults are fully immunized.

Adult Immunization Rates

The Alliance uses data to measure immunization rates in order to identify gaps in care and guide the development and implementation of interventions, which aim to increase compliance and improve health outcomes.

Beginning in 2020, the Alliance will include Adult Immunization Rates as an exploratory measure in our Care-Based Incentive (CBI) Program. An exploratory measure indicates it could become a paid measure in 2021.

The purpose of this measure is to address the important public health issue around low immunization rates in adults 19 years and older. The measure identifies the percentage of adults who are up-to-date on recommended routine immunizations.

Recommended Adult Immunizations

Members who are 19-65 years old are considered compliant when they have received the following routine adult vaccines:

- * Influenza: one dose between July 1 of the prior year and June 30 of the measurement year.
- * Td or Tdap: at least one dose is needed in adults. The first can be administered up to nine years prior to the measurement period, and the second at the end of the period. For example, for measurement year 2020, dose A would need to have occurred between Jan. 1, 2011 and Dec. 31, 2019. Dose B needs to occur between Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2020.
- * Zoster: (shingles) at least one dose of live vaccine, or two doses recombinant vaccine need to be given any time after the 50th birthday.
- * Pneumococcal: at least one dose of 13-valent conjugate and 23-valent polysaccharide vaccine administered at least 12 months apart, with the first given after the age of 60. Please note, the Pneumococcal vaccine is recommended but not measured.

Administer vaccines per your patient’s health needs taking into consideration: health conditions, age, job, lifestyle or travel habits. For the list of full requirements, please refer to the CDC’s website in the Resources section.

Data

The Alliance receives adult immunization data via claims, immunization registries (CAIR and RIDE), and from the Provider Portal’s Data Submission Tool.

Recommended Approaches

The Community Preventive Services Task Force (CPSTF) recommends a multi-pronged approach as being most effective for improving adult immunization rates. A combination of at least two of the three following interventions yields the most effective improvements: 1) increase patient demand for vaccines; 2) access enhancement interventions; and 3) interventions directed at providers or systems providing immunizations.

Category	Explanation	Suggested approaches
Increase Patient Demand		
Staff Education	Convey strong support for immunizations, not only to patients but also to team members. Get entire team on the same page to ensure a successful immunization program. Provide consistent education on vaccine fundamentals and communicate the benefits and risks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set the tone • Train your team • Implement a standardized process • Consider using American Medical Association’s (AMA) Adult Immunizations: Team Training Program
Patient Reminders	Reminders help encourage patients to stay up-to-date with vaccinations and recall those who are overdue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automated phone calls • Text messages • Letters • Postcards
Clinic-Based Patient Education	Provide patients with information during visits to educate and motivate them to vaccinate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brochures • Posters • Videos • Face-to-face sessions • Vaccine information statements (VIS)
Manual Outreach and Tracking	Conduct telephonic outreach to patients to remind them about recommended/overdue vaccinations. Track compliance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alliance Provider Portal: Adult Immunization Report
Access Enhancement Interventions		
Enhance Access to Vaccines	Increase vaccine access in health care settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded clinic hours • Walk-in appointments for vaccinations • Vaccination clinics

Category	Explanation	Suggested approaches
Interventions Directed at Providers/Systems		
Provider Reminders	Systems set up to let health care providers know when clients are due for specific vaccinations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EHR alerts • Pre-visit planning/chart prep • Reminder campaign for providers (e.g., emails, bulletin boards, other postings)
Standing orders for RNs, LVNs, and MAs		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement provider-approved protocols to allow nurses and MAs to assess need for and administer vaccines to patients meeting specified criteria.
Provider assessment and feedback		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze provider immunization data to determine compliance among assigned patients • Offer feedback in the form of data, via individual data reports or group data reports

Tips & Key Messages

- * Provider recommendations are influential: Strong recommendations from health care providers are the most important factors in convincing adults they should be immunized.
- * Review patients’ immunization history during every visit to determine whether they need vaccines.
- * Assess patient immunization rates, including those with high-risk indicators. Use this information to develop strategies to make improvements.
- * Focus on the following key messages, which address common motivators for adults to get vaccinated:
 - Vaccines aren’t just for kids. Adults are also at risk of getting diseases that are vaccine-preventable.
 - Vaccination may protect you from serious illness, missed work or school, medical bills, and inability to care for loved ones. You have too much to do to risk getting sick.
 - Protecting yourself by getting vaccinated also means protecting people around you who are at risk.

*** Routinely transmit data to the registry:**

The Bi-Directional Exchange (BiDX) is available through CAIR. It is a two-way communication between a provider’s EHR and CAIR. When a patient record is opened in the EHR, a query is sent to CAIR and if a matching patient is found, CAIR returns a response containing the patient’s immunization history and, if desired, vaccine doses due. This information shows up in the EHR.

*** Keep data visibility in each patient’s chart:**

Add flags in Electronic Health Records (EHRs)

*** Review the patient’s immunization history:**

- Alliance Provider Portal reports
- Local registries
- Ask the patient

Provider Portal

Alliance contracted providers have access to the Provider Portal. Improved features and new reports occur often and providers can find specifications for reference, links to resources and registries, email support, and best practice tips in the Portal under “Reports”.

Data Submissions

Providers can submit immunization data by using the “Data Submission Tool” on the Provider Portal. Access the tool in the table on the landing page and follow the directions in the Data Submissions Tool Guide.

Coding Recommendations

Proper coding for vaccines also affects your Care Based Incentive (CBI) performance. Use of the following codes will ensure you receive credit for adult members who are up-to-date on the four required vaccines.

Vaccine	Acceptable codes
Influenza	90630, 90654, 90656, 90658, 90661 , 90673, 90674, 90682, 90686, 90688, 90756
Pneumococcal	90670, 90732
Td/Tdap	90714, 90715
Zoster	90736, 90750

The Alliance has an immunization coding presentation available for billing and office staff, as well as a coding resource specialist who can address any concerns and questions.

Resources

ACIP Vaccine Recommendations and Guidelines:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/index.html>

American Medical Association (AMA) STEPS Forward Education:

<https://edhub.ama-assn.org/steps-forward/module/2702553>

CDC Community Guide Community Preventive Services Task Force (CPSTF):

https://www.thecommunityguide.org/topic/vaccination?field_recommendation_tid=All&items_per_page=5&page=2

CDC and Prevention Recommended Vaccines for Adults:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/adult.html>

CDC Adults with Health Conditions:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/rec-vac/health-conditions/index.html>

Central California Alliance for Health Care Based Incentives (CBI):

<http://www.ccah-alliance.org/cbi-resources.html>

IAC: Using Standing Orders for Administering Vaccines: What You Should Know:

<https://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3066.pdf>

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