

# Pharmacists as Immunization Providers

Mitchel C. Rothholz, RPh, MBA
Chief of Staff
American Pharmacists Association



## Challenges / Opportunities

- Authority
  - Statute
  - Regulation
- Implementation
  - Integration
  - Operations
  - Payment



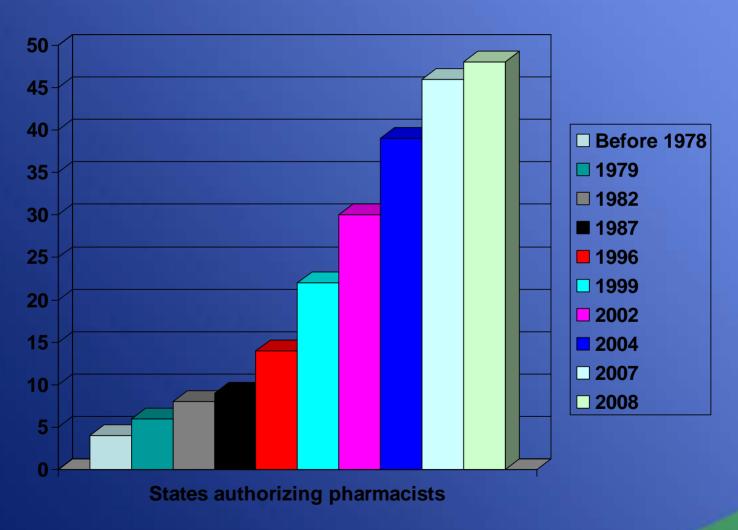
#### States Where Pharmacists Can Immunize



- •48 states currently authorize pharmacists to administer immunizations
- Over 30,000 pharmacists trained

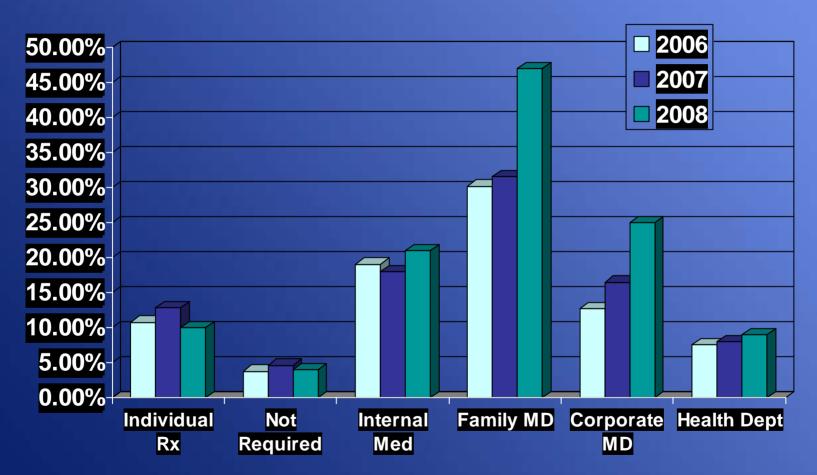


## Pharmacist Authority to Administer Immunizations





### **Protocol**





## Pharmacist-Managed Vaccination Program

Increased Influenza Vaccination Rates in Cardiovascular Patients Enrolled in a Secondary Prevention Lipid Clinic

#### CONCLUSION.

The pharmacist-managed program increased influenza vaccination rates in high-risk patients with cardiovascular disease in advance of the newly published secondary prevention guidelines. Age-related differences in the vaccination rates were eliminated after program implementation

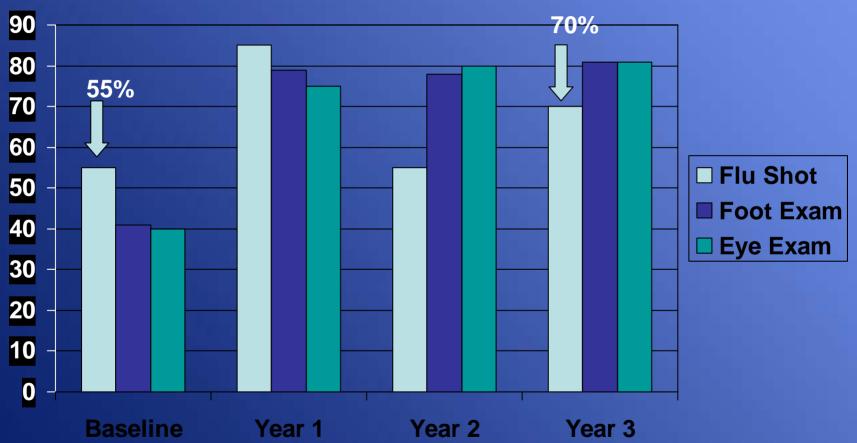
LOUGHLIN S. M., Mortazavi, A., Garey, K. W., Rice, G. K., and Birtcher, K. K.

1 Department of Clinical Sciences and Administration, University of Houston College of Pharmacy, Houston, Texas; Department of Pharmacy, Kelsey-Seybold Clinic, Houston, Texas

Pharmacotherapy 27 (5), 729-733, 2007



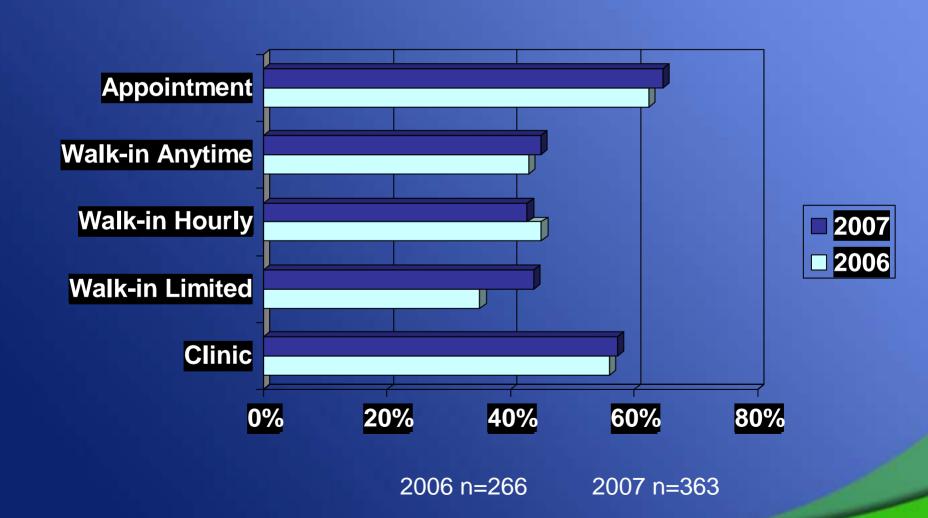
## Combined Participant Percent\* Flu, Foot and Eye



<sup>\*</sup>As reported in the Patient Self-Management Program reports each year for 99 patients with baseline,1st, 2nd and 3rd year results



## Structure of Practice





## 2007-08 Influenza Season

- n=330
- Total Number of Practice Sites: 11,188

APhA	Approximately, what percentage of the intramuscular influenza vaccines were administered to the following patient populations?	Approximately, what percentage of the intranasal influenza vaccines were administered to the following patient populations?
Infants < 2 years	1%`	
Pediatric patients (2- 9 years)	1%	10%
Adolescent patients (10-18 years)	3%	9%
Adult patients > 18 years	95%	81%
	N = 246 responses	N = 107 responses



## Greater than 50% of practice sites plan to do the following in 2008 with their influenza vaccination program

- Train more pharmacists to administer immunizations
- Increase the number of influenza vaccines administered
- Increase influenza vaccine education and administration efforts from January to April



#### Please complete the following statement:

## "To expand influenza immunization services in our practice we need..."

- Patient education about pharmacists, vaccines, etc
- A huge outbreak of the flu in our area
- Additional local physician support
- Ability to bill for our services to insurance companies other than Medicare Part B.
- Educate pharmacy staff members to understand the importance of getting the influenza vaccinations.
- State laws and regulations to be more pharmacist-friendly.