




Immunize For Life
RI Adult Influenza Program

National Influenza
Vaccine Summit
April 19, 2007



History

- Flu vaccine crisis (2004)
- Increased cost of vaccine
- Legislation passed (July 2006)

Rationale

- Equity in vaccine distribution to all providers
- Cost savings on vaccine purchase
- Developing adult immunization infrastructure

Initial Challenges/Issues

- Who gets vaccine?
- How much vaccine do we order?
- Who pays for vaccine?
- How do we identify providers?
- How do we communicate with providers?
- How do we evaluate the program?

Identifying Partners

- Insurers (Blue Cross, United, CMS, DHS)
- CDC
- OSAIC (Ocean State Adult Immunization Coalition)/mass immunizers
- Professional Societies/organizations
- Internal colleagues

Immunize For Life Program

An adult influenza program for Rhode Island residents, ages 19 and older, who have some type of health insurance

Or

For adults, ages 19 or older, who work for and are insured by a Rhode Island company

Challenges Resolved

- Determined program name
- Assessed insurers on premiums written
- Prebooked vaccine
- Purchased provider database
- Developed on-line enrollment system
- Identified distribution mechanism

Challenges Resolved (cont.)

- Contracted with OSAIC
- Responded to border providers
- Identified coverage for uninsured
- Determined participation is voluntary

Ongoing challenges

- Reimbursement coding
- Vaccine distribution
- Wastage policy
- Extending vaccination season
- Education for providers, public
- Program evaluation
- Coverage for uninsured

Questions/Comments

Annemarie Beardsworth

Immunize For Life Coordinator

Rhode Island Department of Health

401-222-5658

annemarie.beardsworth@health.ri.gov