

**National Adult
Immunization
SUMMIT**

Adult Vaccination: What Works

Name of the Organization:

TRICARE Management Activity, Pharmaceutical Operations

2012 Immunization Champion of the American Pharmacist Association

What We Did :

The TRICARE Pharmaceutical Operations Directorate (POD) provides program oversight, benefit management, and policy direction to deliver uniform, consistent, and equitable pharmaceutical care. POD has long supported pharmacist-administered vaccines and recognized the value of vaccines in preventing disease and reducing health care costs. When vaccines are more readily accessible through pharmacist administration, more TRICARE beneficiaries can receive them. In 2009, the Department of Defense published an interim final rule as part of preparations for a potential public health emergency involving the H1N1 influenza virus. Under this rule, the TRICARE pharmacy benefit included H1N1, seasonal influenza, and pneumococcal vaccines at more than 50,000 network community pharmacies. This overwhelming success in reaching 265,000 beneficiaries with flu vaccine led POD to seek authorization to expand vaccines covered at network community pharmacies under a final rule, which became effective on August 12, 2011. The final rule allows network pharmacies to serve as authorized providers for the administration of CDC-recommended covered vaccines at no cost. Working closely with its pharmacy contractor, POD developed infrastructure to support the adjudication process for vaccine claims at community pharmacies, matched vaccine coverage with state laws governing pharmacist administration, and notified pharmacies of the new benefit.

Outcome or Results We Got:

In 2010, more than 265,000 TRICARE beneficiaries received influenza vaccinations at community pharmacies under this rule. Following the expansion of the rule in April 2011, pharmacists have administered 732,696 vaccines to TRICARE beneficiaries

Update (November 2012)The TRICARE Retail Pharmacy Vaccination Program marked the fall flu season with an ounce of prevention – serving up its one millionth vaccine on October 28, 2012. TRICARE expanded its pharmacy coverage in August 2011 to include a full spectrum of preventive vaccines. Up until that time, administration of most vaccines to beneficiaries was limited to physicians' offices and military treatment facilities. To find a participating pharmacy and see a list of covered immunizations, go to www.tricare.mil/vaccines. Since availability of some vaccines varies, and states do not all have the same regulations, beneficiaries are always reminded to call ahead before going to their local pharmacy.

About Our Organization:

The **TRICARE Management Activity** is the U.S. Department of Defense health care program for the seven uniformed services. TRICARE serves 9.7 million active-duty service personnel, retired service members, and their families

Our Organization's Website/Resources/ Contact Information:

<http://www.pharmacist.com/immunization-champion-awards-2012>