What Works
To Improve Adult Immunization

The 4 Pillars Immunization Toolkit
A Quality Improvement Project for Adult Immunization

What They Did:

Community Preventive Services Task Force review indicates that using multiple strategic approaches leads to substantially higher vaccination rates compared to using a single strategic approach. Based on these evidence-based strategies, the Department of Family Medicine, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, developed a quality improvement intervention called the 4 Pillars Immunization Toolkit to increase vaccination rates in primary care settings.

The pillars in the 4 Pillars Immunization Toolkit are:
1. Convenient vaccination services
2. Notification to patients about the importance of immunization and the availability of vaccines
3. Enhanced office systems to facilitate immunization
4. Motivation through an office immunization champion who monitors progress and encourages adherence to vaccination-promoting office practices

The toolkit includes blueprints for step-by-step instructions on how to transform practices and increase immunization rates, including guides for practice registration, selecting an immunization champion, tracking progress, and creating a standing order protocol. The toolkit contains building blocks of resources that are needed to implement the blueprints and is adaptable to the culture and workflow of clinical practices.

A web-based program is being developed to guide clinical practices through the implementation of the 4 Pillars Immunization Toolkit. Funding for this project was made possible by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention through the implementation of the 4 Pillars Immunization Toolkit.

For more information:
http://4pillarstoolkit.pitt.edu

Results:

The 4 Pillars Immunization Toolkit was tested for influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations for adults in four urban primary care networks of over 70 practices (practice patient censuses ranged from 450 to 2,200).* Findings include:

- Pneumococcal vaccination (PPSV) rates increased significantly overall for high-risk adults 18–64 years of age (25% in 2010–2011 vs. 40% in 2011–2012) and in two of four practices among high-risk adults 18–64 years of age and older adults ≥65 years of age
- Influenza vaccination rates increased significantly overall (22% in 2010–2011 vs. 33% in 2011–2012)
- Primary care practices that more fully implemented the toolkit had larger increases in vaccination rates

Standing order programs are a proven method of increasing adult vaccinations, yet they are underutilized by primary care physicians.

The 4 Pillars Toolkit can be useful in developing standing order programs in primary care practices to improve adult vaccination rates.