



Maximizing the Use of 317 Funds

Denise Cappelli
Rhode Island Department of Health
Adult & Influenza Program Coordinator

RI Adult Vaccine Funding



- State Supplied Vaccine (SSV)
 - Health plans provide funding for insured
- CDC 317 Vaccine Funds
 - Uninsured/underinsured adults
 - Municipal/school/community clinics

Adult Program Timeline



- 2007 Adult Immunization Program began
 - offered Influenza only
- 2009 Adult program expanded
 - added Tdap and Pneumococcal
- 2013 Adult program expanded
 - offer most ACIP recommended vaccines
- Shortly after expansion, received notification from CDC of decrease in 317 funding
- The reduction required HEALTH to restrict the ability for providers to order vaccine directly from HEALTH for uninsured/underinsured

Utilizing 317 Funds for Patient Assistance Programs



- Last year RI received \$380,000 in 317 funding - \$180,000 was automatically taken out for the purchase of flu vaccine for the uninsured population leaving \$120,000 for all ACIP adult recommended vaccines
- Reviewed practice profiles in the State-Supplied Vaccine (SSV) Program to see where the majority of our uninsured/underinsured patients access care
- Reviewed Patient Assistance Programs (PAP's) offered by the pharmaceutical manufacturers
- These programs do not include flu vaccine

Utilizing 317 funds for Patient Assistance Programs



- Held meetings with Community Health Centers (CHC) and some community immunizers who provide services to uninsured/underinsured to discuss PAP's
- CHC's were also a good fit because they just had received funding from ACA to have Health Navigators in their settings to enroll the uninsured
- Although PAP's were not the best solution, all CHC's with the exception of one agreed to participate
- HEALTH provided "seed vaccine" to the CHC's to start and they receive replenishment through manufacturer
- Expanded St. Joseph's Health Services contract to include a new Walk-In Adult Immunization Free Clinic

PAP's and Lessons Learned



- The PAP's have an application that needs to be filled out and faxed to the manufacturer before you can administer the vaccine to the patient
- Each PAP has a different application and guidelines to see if the patient qualifies for their program
- Additional staff time needed to fill out and fax these applications and can be burdensome for some practices
- With some PAP's you get an answer within 10 minutes but some do take up to 20 minutes for a reply

PAP's and Lessons Learned continued



- Some CHC's said PAP takes too much time and patient does not always want to wait to see if eligible for program, however most PAP approvals were good for 30 days so the patient can return if they chose not to wait. CHC's biggest concerns were missed opportunity at that point the patient was in office
- The upside is with this partnership we were able to provide vaccine at no cost for the uninsured at critical access points
- In certain circumstances it was not feasible for small community organizations to use the PAP so in those cases we provide vaccine for the uninsured as needed



Thank you.

Denise Cappelli

Adult/Influenza Program Coordinator

401.222.6737

Denise.Cappelli@health.ri.gov

www.health.ri.gov