

AAFP Adult Immunization Office Champions Project

Increasing Practice Information Survey Results

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BACKGROUND

Introduction: The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) was awarded a four-year Cooperative Agreement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to increase adult immunization rates through a multi-faceted approach. To accomplish this, the AAFP developed the *Office Champions Quality Improvement Model*. This web-based model takes practice teams through a PDSA cycle, step by step, and provides tools and resources specific to improving adult immunization rates.

Key areas being addressed include:

1. Improving strong recommendations for adults vaccines,
2. Reducing missed opportunities to immunize,
3. Increasing documentation of vaccines into Immunization Information Systems (IIS),
4. Implementing evidence-based strategies to improve immunization rates through interventions, such as: the use of standing orders, changes in practice work flow and procedures, and reminder-recall systems.



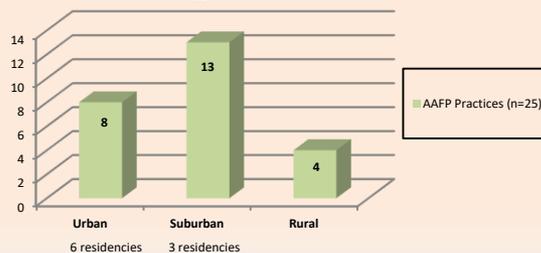
Adult Immunization Office Champion Project Physicians and Office Champions at the AAFP's 2016 Immunization Conference.

Figure 1: Geographical locations and demographics of the practices

States Represented in the Project



Practice Types



METHODS

Twenty-five practices were recruited for this project. The AAFP *Quality Improvement Model* includes practice information and resources to communicate the importance of immunizations. "The Practice Information Survey" is a tool that is provided to the practices to evaluate how information is being communicated within the practice and to patients. Listed below are some of the questions to assess communication within the practice setting:

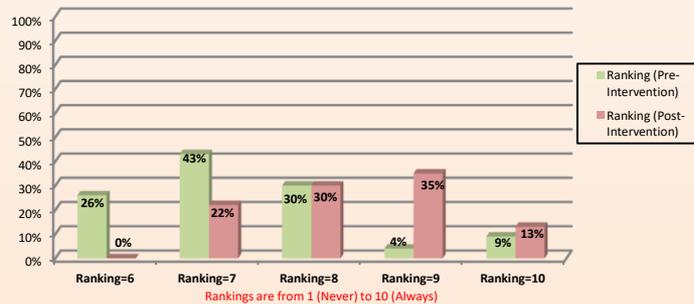
- How often a family physician gives a "Strong Recommendation" to an adult patient to be immunized?
- What resources are given to patients?
- Does someone in your practice review the immunization status prior to patient's visit (provider reminders)?
- Does the practice provide reminders to adult patients to get vaccines (patient reminders)?
- Did the practice offer or does it plan to offer the influenza vaccine on site?
- Are nursing and other clinical staff trained to know how to determine valid contraindications to vaccines?

RESULTS

The Practice Information Survey, available in the *Office Champions Quality Improvement Model*, measures how information is being communicated within the practice and to patients. Baseline results were measured in May 2016 and re-measurement occurred in March 2017, after implementation of interventions.

- The data shows the baseline and re-measurement results on the following questions: How often family physician gives a strong recommendation; resources given to patients; immunization status reviewed prior to patient's visit; and reminders to patients to get vaccines.

Figure 2: How often a family physician gives a "Strong Recommendation" for an adult patient to be immunized? N=23



Reminder and Recall (Provider & Patient) Interventions have proven to be effective tools to increase immunization rates. The twenty-five practices were asked pre-intervention (baseline) and post-interventions if they have systems in place to remind the provider and patient about vaccines. Listed below are the comparison results:

Figure 3: Are Reminder & Recall Interventions Implemented in your practice? N=23

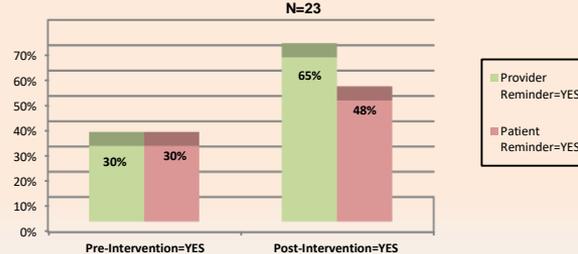
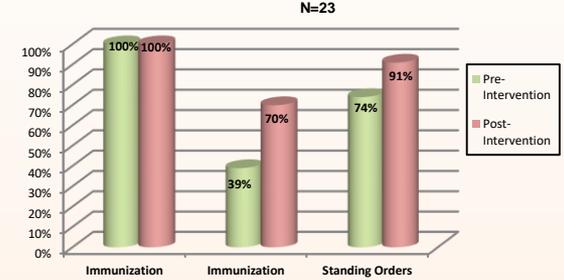
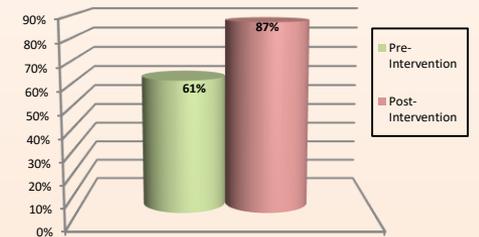


Figure 4: Does your practice currently use any of the following immunization resources? N=23



Effective provider education can improve vaccination rates and/or reduce vaccine-preventable illness.

Figure 5: Are nursing and clinical staff members trained to know how to determine valid contraindications to vaccines? N=23



DISCUSSION

This initial phase of the Adult Immunization Office Champions Project reflects the need for improvement. It is anticipated that post-implementation chart review data will show an increase in adult immunization rates for the participating practices.

CONCLUSION

Limitations: Listed are some limitations that may have affected the results of the survey:

- 23 of the 25 practices completed the survey in May 2016 (baseline) and March 2017 (post-interventions). These results do not reflect communication for all 25 practices.
- The question: How often a family physician gives a "Strong Recommendation" for an adult patient to be immunized?, is self identified data.

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