Prior to April 2016, PCV13 immunization was deferred for clients receiving health care services from Wake County Human Services Infectious Disease Clinic. The cost of the vaccine ($175/dose) and the lack of coverage for the vaccine by the North Carolina AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) contributed to the deferment. Funding from a Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program grant made possible the purchase of 440 doses ($151 per dose) of PCV13 in March 2016. Medically eligible clients began receiving these doses beginning April 2, 2016.

Initially, PCV13 immunization began with clients who were 50 years of age and older. These clients had to meet the following criteria to be medically eligible:

- Vaccine naïve
- 12 month interval since last dose of Pneumovax 23
- CD4 count >200

After the initial 4 weeks, all medically eligible clients were offered vaccine.

Staff applied for Patient Assistance doses from Pfizer Rx Pathways to replace each dose as it was given. Uninsured clients received Patient Assistance doses at no cost to them.

The Project
April 1, 2016—February 1, 2017

The Process

- Nurse filled out required paperwork for each client
- Nurse called Pfizer. The average phone call lasted 15-20 minutes to obtain confirmation and the required approval code
- Doses arrived quickly, usually within 10 days
- Entire process had to be completed within 30 days to be eligible for the reimbursed dose

Tracking and Surveillance

- Tracking log of client insured/uninsured status and immunization administration
- Creation of a logbook resource for clinical staff review of client immunization status

The Results

- 164 doses of Patient Assistance PCV13 obtained during the project were valued at $23,960.70
- Immunization with PCV13 was extended until vaccine supplies were exhausted

Lessons Learned

- Tracking of doses was essential to the success of the project
- Immunizing pharmacies do not always add their doses to the North Carolina Immunization Registry
- Patient Assistance reimbursement projects are labor intensive and can be very time consuming

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Prior to April 2016, PCV13 immunization was deferred for clients receiving health care services from Wake County Human Services Infectious Disease Clinic. The cost of the vaccine ($175/dose) and the lack of coverage for the vaccine by the North Carolina AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) contributed to the deferment. Funding from a Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program grant made possible the purchase of 440 doses ($151 per dose) of PCV13 in March 2016. Medically eligible clients began receiving these doses beginning April 2, 2016.

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