

# Strengthening the Adult Immunization Neighborhood:

## Partnering with Pharmacies to Increase Adult Immunization Rates

Anya Gutman, MPH

Nisha Gandhi, MPH

# Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF) Award

---

Two year CDC grant to increase adult IZ coverage and decrease disparities by

- assisting community health centers and pharmacies to implement the Natl. Adult Vaccination Standards,
- engaging provider orgs and health systems,
- and providing 317 vaccines to uninsured and underinsured adults.

# Background

---

In 2016, The California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) required Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans to offer all ACIP-recommended adult immunizations as a pharmacy benefit.

# Background

---

In August 2016, a CA Board of Pharmacy regulation went into effect requiring pharmacists to

- notify administration of any vaccine to a primary care provider and prenatal care provider (if applicable and known) within 14 days
- report any vaccines administered to a CA IZ registry within 14 days
- document each vaccine administered, and provide patient with an IZ record

# Pharmacy Component

---

- Organized a Pharmacy Task Force
- Identified best practices in implementation of adult IZ standards
- Developed a pharmacist toolkit of IZ and California Immunization Registry (CAIR) resources
- Enrolled and trained pharmacists in use of the CAIR

# Pharmacy Task Force

---

## Background:

- Convened 7 meetings, 1 in person
- Members: chain and independent pharmacies, DHCS, and Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans

## Activities:

- Informed the creation of
  - a key informant interview tool
  - a survey of California Pharmacists
  - a California pharmacist toolkit
  - pharmacy-based prenatal Tdap and flu vaccination promotion materials
- Received support and provided feedback on CAIR2 enrollment

# California Pharmacists Survey

---

## Background:

- Administered a confidential, electronic survey to 105 California-based pharmacists in June 2016.
- Sample was approx. 70:30 chain to independent pharmacies; included urban and rural counties

**Objective:** To assess the status of CA pharmacists in implementing the standards for adult IZ practice, including the use of a registry.

# Survey: Key Findings

---

- Only 19% reported using an IZ registry, and another 23% were unsure if their pharmacy uses one.
- Most frequently rely on the pharmacy profile in their dispensing system (83%) and patient self-report (77%) to assess patients' IZ history.
- Fifty-four percent responded that the number of non-influenza vaccines their pharmacy gives increases during influenza season.



# California Pharmacists Toolkit

---

- Utilized key informant interviews and survey results
- Pilot-tested resources with Pharmacy Task Force members using five patient scenarios to test utility of resources
- Integrated resources into each step of the **Pharmacists' Patient Care Process to Immunization Services** to create a draft California-specific guide.

# Pharmacists' Patient Care Process to Immunization Services

---

- Consistent with Standards for Adult IZ Practice
- Steps:
  - **Collect:** info to screen for indications/contraindications
  - **Assess:** using IZ records, patient profile, responses to screening questionnaire, etc.
  - **Plan:** strongly recommend, offer IZ or to refer
  - **Implement:** provide patient education & VIS, administer IZ or refer, provide patient and provider with record and document in IIS
  - **Follow-Up:** Monitor patient for adverse reactions, schedule subsequent doses

# California Pharmacists Toolkit

---

- Conducted 2 focus groups: 1 with independent pharmacist owners and 1 with chain pharmacist managers
- Created a webpage with toolkit links
- Promoted via California Board of Pharmacy communication to all pharmacist licensees and California Pharmacists Association members during CE webinar on immunization.

# Focus Groups: Key Findings

---

## Barriers to proactive assessment

- Integration into workflow
- Need better access to CAIR
  - Via bidirectional data exchange with Pharmacy Management System
  - Read only access to CAIR
- More robust Pharmacy Management System that makes IZ recommendations based on inferred diagnosis (e.g., taking diabetes Rx, need Hep B?)

Flu season: most common time for proactive assessment

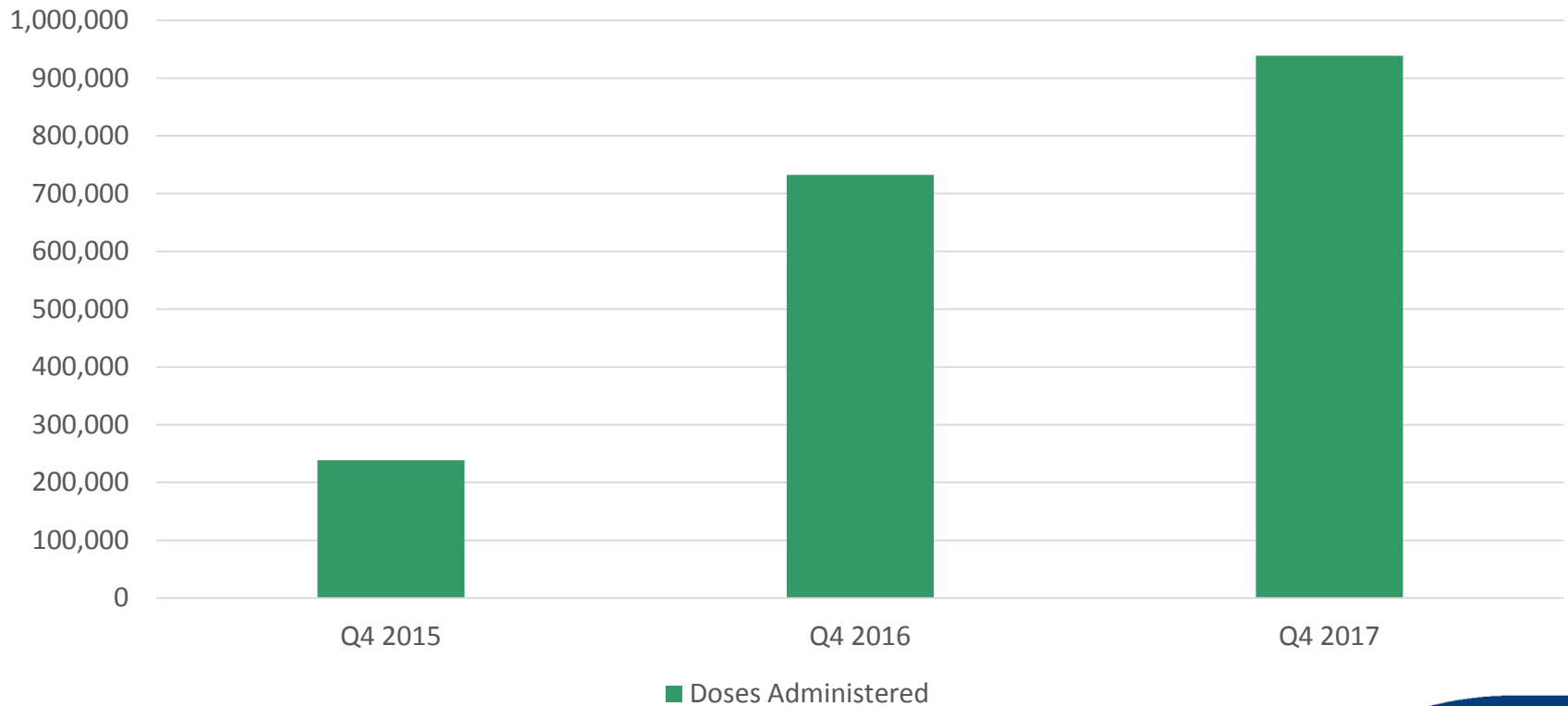
# Pharmacy Prenatal Tdap/Flu Resources

- A Prenatal Tdap/Flu Vaccination Aisle Violator (4" x 5") / Spanish
- Template letter to send to prenatal care providers to increase referrals to their pharmacies for influenza and Tdap vaccination.



# What does CAIR2 show us?

Doses Administered by Pharmacists, Reporting during indicated time period



# Future Collaboration

---

- Continue to
  - enroll pharmacies and train in the use of CAIR
  - increase # of Pharmacy Management Systems with bidirectional capabilities with CAIR
  - enhance partnerships with CA Board of Pharmacy and CA Pharmacists Association
  - promote the California Pharmacist Toolkit and [webpage](#)

# Questions?

---

Anya Gutman, MPH

Phone: 510-231-4189

[Anya.Gutman@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Anya.Gutman@cdph.ca.gov)