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.
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

- Q4 2015
- Q4 2016
- Q4 2017

Doses Administered
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