



## Specialty Societies Advancing Adult Immunization (SSAI)



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## CMSS Mission and Vision

### Our Mission

To advance the expertise and collective voice of specialty societies  
in support of physicians and the patients they serve

### Our Vision

Working together, specialty societies advance healthcare for  
patients and physicians

### Strategic Priorities

Engaging  
Community &  
Building Capacity

Sharing Learning &  
Innovation

Addressing Critical  
Issues Together

### Core Competencies

Quality | Equity | Education

## About SSAAI

- Five-year cooperative agreement between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and CMSS to promote adult immunization for high-risk patients in specialty settings
- Six specialty society partners are focused on patients with chronic illnesses, including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, diabetes, heart disease, and cancer, as well as older adults, and occupational health settings.



## SSAAI advances adult immunization practice in specialty settings by:

- Engaging health systems to test interventions in specialty settings to improve practices related to vaccine assessment, recommendation, administration, referral and documentation.
- Aligning participating specialty society educational offerings, policies and guidelines to CDC's Standards for Adult Immunization Practice.



# CDC Standards for Adult Immunization Practice

## Immunizing Adult Patients: Standards for Practice

Your patients trust you to give them the best advice on how to protect their health. Vaccine-preventable diseases can result in serious illness, hospitalization, and even death. Make adult vaccination a standard of care in your practice.

**Your patients have probably not received all the vaccines they need.**

Even though most insurance plans cover the cost of recommended vaccines, adult vaccination rates in the U.S. are extremely low. Each year, tens of thousands of adults needlessly suffer, are hospitalized, and even die as a result of diseases that could be prevented by vaccines.

**Your patients may not even realize that they need vaccines.**

Many adults don't know which vaccines are recommended for them throughout their lives. Many also report not receiving vaccine recommendations from their healthcare professional.

**You can make a difference.**

Clinicians are the most valued and trusted source of health information for adults. Research shows that most adults believe vaccines are important and that a recommendation from their healthcare professional is a key predictor of patients getting needed vaccines.

**Make Immunization a Standard of Patient Care In Your Practice:**

- ASSESS the immunization status of all your patients at every clinical encounter.**
  - Stay informed about the latest CDC recommendations for immunization of adults.
  - Implement protocols in your office to ensure that patients' vaccine needs are routinely reviewed and patients get reminders about vaccines they need.
- Strongly RECOMMEND vaccines that your patients need.**
  - Address patient questions and concerns in clear and understandable language.
  - Highlight your positive experiences with vaccination (personal or in your practice).
- ADMINISTER needed vaccines or REFER your patients to a vaccination provider.**
  - For vaccines that you stock, make vaccination services as convenient as possible for your patients.
  - For vaccines that you don't stock, refer patients to providers in the area that offer vaccination services.
- DOCUMENT vaccines received by your patients.**
  - Participate in your state's immunization registry to help your office, your patients, and your patients' other providers know which vaccines your patients have had.
  - Follow up to confirm that patients received recommended vaccines that you referred them to get from other immunization providers.

Standards for Adult Immunization Practice emphasize the role of ALL healthcare professionals—whether they provide immunization services or not—in ensuring that adult patients are fully immunized. These standards are published by the National Vaccine Advisory Committee and supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as a number of national medical associations.

## DON'T WAIT. VACCINATE!

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

## 40 health systems are participating in SSAAI

Criteria for health system recruitment included capacity to collect and report data on immunization, focus on high-risk patient populations, diversity in provider mix.



## Participating health systems tailor the focus of their interventions

All participating health systems are focused on improving vaccine rates for:

- Influenza
- Covid-19

Health systems can choose to focus on other vaccines:

- Hepatis B
- Pneumococcal
- RSV
- Shingles
- Tetanus



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## Examples of health system quality improvement interventions to improve adult vaccination



Improving documentation of vaccine status in patients' electronic health records.



Training clinicians and staff on techniques to respectfully engage with patients with vaccine hesitancy.



Changing workflows for assessing vaccine status and administering vaccines.

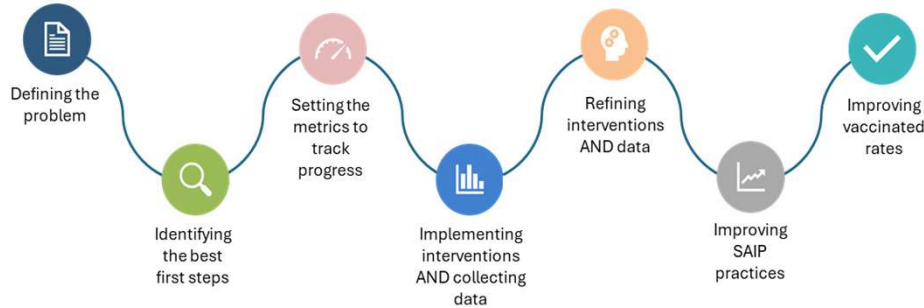


Educating patients about the benefits and risks of vaccines.

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## Health system quality improvement interventions generates on-the-ground learning about how to adopt SAIP in specialty settings

### SSAAI Health System Quality Improvement Journey



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## Health system quality improvement interventions generates on-the-ground learning about how to adopt SAIP in specialty settings

### SSAAI Health System Quality Improvement Journey



**Specialty societies** scanning for learning, innovations and best practices. Societies spreading innovations and best practices to society members.

**CMSS** synthesizing learning, innovations and best practices and facilitating sharing across project participants AND with other specialties.

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## Insights from specialty practices' experience

### Specialists' Role in Adult Immunization

- Understand value of vaccination for their patient populations
- View vaccination as part of specialists' role
- Some variation on whether perceive role as limited to education/referral or whether the role includes administration of vaccines

### Barriers to Addressing Adult Immunization in Specialty Settings

- Time constraints
- Vaccine hesitancy
- Lack of standardized processes and protocols
- Inability to capture relevant, necessary data in EHRs
- IIS – room for improvement with data exchange
- Reimbursement
- Logistics related to administering vaccine (e.g., storing vaccines)



## SSAAI health systems testing strategies to improve adoption of SAIP in 29 States

An oncology practice improved rates of pre-visit vaccine assessments from 6% to 69% using huddle updates

An academic medical center reviewed 13,000 patients' vaccination status with the state IIS and established quarterly cross-checking. Matching rates were highest for pneumococcal (90%) and lowest for COVID-19 (46%).

An endocrinology practice achieved 90% documentation of patient vaccine status with new standardized assessment and documentation workflows.

An endocrinology practice's efforts reported gaps in immunization status to the state IIS, which led to a significant increase in IIS reporting by pharmacies, employers, pop-up sites and traveling providers.

Participating Health System



## CMSS Learning Center

- Participating societies have developed new and updated educational materials reflect what we are learning from participating practices' experience in terms of key challenges.
- Educational resources are available in array of formats for clinicians and patients.
- The CMSS Learning Center contains an online repository of educational materials on immunization.

<https://learn.cmss.org/>



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## Featured resource on vaccine hesitancy

- CMSS Disagreeing Better Toolkit for Clinicians and Care Teams developed by Dr. Julia Minson of Harvard University
- New e-learning course (CME credit available) to support clinicians in talking with patients who have vaccine hesitancy.

### Acknowledging the Other Perspective

I understand that you had a difficult time after you got the first series of shots, and you are not eager to repeat that experience...

or

It sounds like you are not very concerned with getting COVID again because your first case was relatively mild...



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The background of the slide is a photograph of three healthcare professionals—two women and one man—wearing white scrubs and stethoscopes. They are gathered around a table, looking at a tablet or clipboard together and smiling. The image has a blue and purple color overlay.

WE MAKE HEALTHCARE  
**BETTER TOGETHER**