Recent Federal Vaccine Policy Coverage Changes in Medicare and Medicaid

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Adult Vaccine Access Coalition (AVAC)

• Established in 2015 to strengthen and enhance access to and increase utilization of vaccines among adults.

• AVAC is made up of a diverse group of health care providers, vaccine innovators, public health organizations, patient and consumer groups.

### Estimated Adult Vaccination Rates for Four Vaccines, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine</th>
<th>Rate (percentage)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flu</td>
<td>46.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pneumococcal</td>
<td>70.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shingles</td>
<td>31.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetanus</td>
<td>78.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: GAO analysis of Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data. | GAO-22-100034

AVAC is fighting to make necessary policy changes to increase vaccination rates — saving lives and money.
Core Policy Goals to Improve Adult Vaccination Rates

1. Strengthening Vaccine Infrastructure
2. Creating Equity in Vaccine Access
3. Eliminating Financial Barriers
4. Promoting High Immunization Rates
### Barriers to Adult Immunizations in the U.S.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Financial</strong></td>
<td>Inability for individuals to pay due to co-pays / gaps in coverage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hesitancy</strong></td>
<td>Regarding vaccine safety and effectiveness among patients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Provider</strong></td>
<td>Financial barriers for health care providers to stock and administer vaccines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lack of awareness</strong></td>
<td>Regarding recommended vaccines and the risk/consequences of vaccine- preventable diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coordination</strong></td>
<td>Lack of coordination among health care providers – many adults see multiple providers – and across the health care system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legal/Policy</strong></td>
<td>Systematic at the federal and state levels restricting which providers can immunize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Missed Opportunities</strong></td>
<td>For immunization assessment, counseling and recommendations by health care providers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Infrastructure</strong></td>
<td>Lack of or underuse of immunization data systems that document vaccination histories</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Inflation Reduction Act - Key Vaccine provisions

Sec 11401 (Protecting Seniors Through Immunization Act). Eliminates copays/out of pocket expenses for ACIP-recommended vaccines under Medicare Part D (Jan 2023)

Sec 11405 (Helping Adults Protect Immunity Act). Requires coverage for ACIP-recommended adult vaccines in traditional Medicaid and CHIP programs. (Oct 2023)
NEW Health Care Savings for Older Adults

In 2021, 3.4 million older adults paid $234 million in out-of-pocket costs for vaccines. Thanks to Congressional action, Medicare Part D enrollees can now get those vaccines for free.

Section 11405 Implementation- Medicaid No Cost Vaccines

October 1, 2023
• Establishes federal coverage requirements across all Medicaid programs and populations.
• CMS guidance forthcoming
• The process for implementing coverage changes varies by state:
  • Legislation
  • Regulation
  • Administrative action

Status of State Medicaid Expansion 2023

States with Medicaid FFS Programs that Do Not Cover One or More Assessed Vaccines for All ACIP-Recommended Populations, 2021

- All Assessed Vaccines Covered for All ACIP Recommended Populations (35 States)
- 1 Assessed Vaccine Not Covered (4 States)
- 2 Assessed Vaccines Not Covered (5 States)
- 3+ Assessed Vaccines Not Covered (2 States)
- Unable to Determine All Assessed Vaccines (2 States)
- State Does Not Have FFS (1 State)

*FFS programs contain less than 2% of state Medicaid beneficiaries, most Medicaid beneficiaries in these states are enrolled in a MMC plan.
**Avalere was unable to determine if a coverage policy aligned with ACIP recommendations for one or more assessed vaccines.

11 Fee for Service States & 6 Medicaid Managed Care do NOT cover one or more ACIP recommended vaccines.


Americans that have first dollar coverage for ACIP-recommended vaccines

Policy Considerations

- Uninsured vaccination coverage
- Improvements to Reimbursement policies
  - Increase rates for vaccine
  - Vaccine administration
  - Counseling
  - Support FQHC payment
- Educating providers + individuals
- Strengthening infrastructure
- Modernizing immunization data
- Adopting quality measures

Learn More:
www.adultvaccinesnow.org

Contact Us:
https://adultvaccinesnow.org/contact/

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