The Specialist's Role in Immunization:
Driving Immunization for High-Risk Patients with Chronic Illness

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CDC Standards for Adult Immunization Practice (SAIP)

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:

1. 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.

2. 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).

3. 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.

4. 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.

DON’T WAIT. VACCINATE!

Standards for Adult Immunization Practice emphasize the role of ALL healthcare professionals—in other words, providers of all immunization services—as critical 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.
Specialty Societies Advancing Immunization (SSAAI) Project Overview

• Five-year cooperative agreement between CDC and CMSS to promote adult immunization for high-risk patients in specialty settings

• Seven specialty society partners are focused on patients with COPD, asthma, diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and chronic kidney disease, 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 SAIP.
7 specialty society partners recruited 45 health systems to participate in the program.

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

Health system recruitment ended in September 2023.
81 Participating Practice Sites

Geographic Distribution of Participating Health Systems

Participating Health System
Participating Health Systems: Testing What Works

- Health systems are implementing quality improvement (QI) interventions to test strategies to improve adoption of SAIP in practice.

- Interventions are currently focused on Covid-19 and Influenza. Will expand to other vaccines in 2024.

- Interventions tend to fall into one of 10 categories.

- Most health systems are currently in 1st or 2nd QI Cycle.

- Health systems will report process and outcomes data into central Data Platform.

**Categories of QI Interventions**
- Clinical workflow
- Vaccine assessment
- Patient education
- Administrative staff education
- Clinician education
- Vaccine hesitancy
- IIS data exchange
- Patient referrals
- Vaccine recommendations
- EHR modifications
SSAAI Data Platform Aggregates Health System Process and Outcomes Data

COVID-19 and Influenza Measures
- Vaccine eligibility assessed
- Vaccine recommendation
- Vaccination referrals
- Vaccination administered onsite/offsite
- Vaccination refusal
- Vaccination documentation
- COVID-19 vaccine counts
- COVID-19 up-to-date
- Influenza vaccination during current flu season
- High-dose influenza vaccination during current flu season

Additional Measures in 2024
- Pneumococcal vaccination up-to-date
- RSV vaccination up-to-date
- Shingles vaccination up-to-date
- Shingles partial vaccination
- Tetanus vaccination up-to-date
- Hepatitis-B vaccination up-to-date
Health System QI Interventions Will Generate On-the-Ground Learning about How to Adopt SAIP in Specialty Settings

45 health systems implementing QI cycles, sharing results, challenges, successes, resources.

Seven societies monitoring and analyzing health system progress and scanning for emerging best practices and learnings to share.

CMSS aggregating the learning and sharing across all project participants and to full CMSS membership.
Examples of Current QI Interventions

Validating vaccine data in EHR and cross-walking with state IIS.

Identifying barriers to documenting vaccine status accurately in EHR.

Adding immunization assessment and documentation to standard rooming protocols.

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

Developing patient educational tools that address vaccine hesitancy.

Collaborating with State Medicaid agency in identifying patients with lower vaccination rates and measuring impact of interventions.
### Insights from Specialty Practices’ Experience

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<tr>
<th>Specialists’ Role in Adult Immunization</th>
<th>Barriers to Addressing Adult Immunization in Specialty Settings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Understand value of vaccination for their patient populations</td>
<td>• Time constraints</td>
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<td>• Generally view vaccination as part of specialists’ role</td>
<td>• Vaccine hesitancy</td>
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<td>• Some variation on whether perceive role as limited to education/referral or includes administration of vaccines</td>
<td>• Lack of standardized processes and protocols</td>
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<td>• Reimbursement</td>
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<td>• Logistics related to administering vaccine (e.g., storing vaccines)</td>
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QI Interventions Informing Society Educational Offerings

• Participating societies have developed new and updated resources to align to the SAIP.

• 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.
CMSS Developing Resources to Support All Members in Advancing Adult Immunization

- CMSS is developing resources that are relevant across specialties to support physicians and their health care teams in implementing the SAIP.

- CMSS is focused on resources that address reported barriers to adopting the SAIP.

- CMSS and society resources will be available to all CMSS members through The CMSS Learning Center, a new Learning Management System that was launched in December 2023.
Featured Resource: Vaccine Coding Toolkit

- At-a-glance resource for physicians and their health care team members about coding for vaccine counseling and vaccine administration.
- Covers coding for vaccination-related services for adult patients with chronic conditions during (a) a visit to address conditions; (b) as the purpose of the visit; and (c) as part of principal care management.
- Includes tips for coding success and case studies.
- Adapted from a resource developed by the American Association of Clinical Endocrinology.
- Release in February 2024.
Featured Resource: Conversational Receptiveness e-Learning Modules

• New resource to support clinicians in talking with patients who have vaccine hesitancy (but applicable to any difficult conversations).

• In development by Dr. Julia Minson, Harvard University based on years of research on conversational receptiveness and the psychology of disagreement.

• Series of 10-15 minute learning modules, featuring case studies and knowledge checks.

• Targeted release in March-April 2024.
Featured Resource:
EHR Navigation Tools

• Product of a CMSS-led Data Mapping Workgroup of 11 participating health systems that is developing solutions for leveraging EHRs for assessment and documentation of immunization status.

• Workgroup includes health systems using multiple EHR vendors; exploring vendor-specific solutions

• Workgroup output will include:
  • Practical insights - clinician user experience and organizational approach
  • Technical insights - data source identification, detailed data queries

Participating Health System - EHR Vendors
- AllScripts
- Athena Health
- Cerner
- Darwin
- eClinical Works
- Epic
- Gaia
- Medgate
- Practice Fusion
- Systoc
- Visonex
Comments/Questions

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