

Adult Vaccination: What Works

Name of the Organization:

American College of Physicians

“Improving adult immunization practices using a team approach in the primary care setting”

What We Did and When

Objectives. The objective of this study was to improve the immunization rates of primary care practices using a team approach.

Methods. Practices performed 35 random chart abstractions at 2 time points and completed a survey about immunizations at baseline and 12 months after intervention. Data were collected for the following immunizations: influenza, pneumococcal, tetanus diphtheria (Td)/tetanus diphtheria pertussis (Tdap), hepatitis A, hepatitis B, meningococcal, varicella, herpes zoster, and human papilloma virus. Between baseline and after intervention, practice teams were given feedback reports and access to an online educational tool, and attended quality improvement coaching conference calls.

Outcome or Results We Got:

Results. Statistically significant improvements were seen for Td/Tdap (45.6% pre-intervention, 55.0% post-intervention; $P \leq .01$), herpes zoster (12.3% pre-intervention, 19.3% post-intervention; $P \leq .01$), and pneumococcal (52.2% pre-intervention, 74.5% post-intervention; $P \leq .01$) immunizations. Data also revealed an increase in the number of physicians who discussed herpes zoster and pneumococcal vaccinations with their patients (23.2% pre-intervention, 43.3% post-intervention; $P \leq .01$ and 19.9% pre-intervention, 43.0% post-intervention; $P \leq .01$, respectively) as well as an increase in physicians using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention immunization schedule (52.9% pre-intervention, 88.2% post-intervention; $P \leq .02$).

Conclusions. The immunization rates of the primary care practices involved in this study improved.

Orienting a practice to promote adult vaccination showed improved adult vaccination rates in this and other studies. This required a culture shift and an investment of time for the practice, one that is becoming increasingly difficult given the current time constraints in primary care practice. Overall, the results showed that the intervention via conference call coaching and educational program had an impact on physician immunization practice patterns. All practices used a team approach, which they felt was an integral part of their success in boosting immunization practices. As the knowledge scores did not differ significantly between before and after intervention, our study showed that knowledge is necessary but not sufficient. Practice change takes a team approach, one that is invested in quality and supported to improve their practice.

About Our Organization:

The American College of Physicians (ACP) is a national organization of internists — physicians who specialize in the prevention, detection and treatment of illnesses in adults. ACP is the largest medical-specialty organization and second-largest physician group in the United States. Its membership of 133,000 includes internists, internal medicine subspecialists, and medical students, residents, and fellows.

Our Organization’s Website / Resources / Contact Information:

http://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/abs/10.2105/AJPH.2012.300665?url_ver=Z39.88-2003&rfr_id=ori:rid:crossref.org&rfr_dat=cr_pub%3dpubmed&

- <http://immunization.acponline.org/>

Contact information: <http://www.acponline.org/cgi-bin/feedback>

