

# What Works

## To Improve Adult Immunization

### What They Did:

### Results:

Community Preventive Services Task Force review indicates that using multiple strategic approaches leads to substantially higher vaccination rates compared to using a single strategic approach. Based on these evidence-based strategies, the Department of Family Medicine, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, developed a quality improvement intervention called the 4 Pillars Immunization Toolkit to increase vaccination rates in primary care settings.

#### The pillars in the 4 Pillars of Immunization Toolkit are:

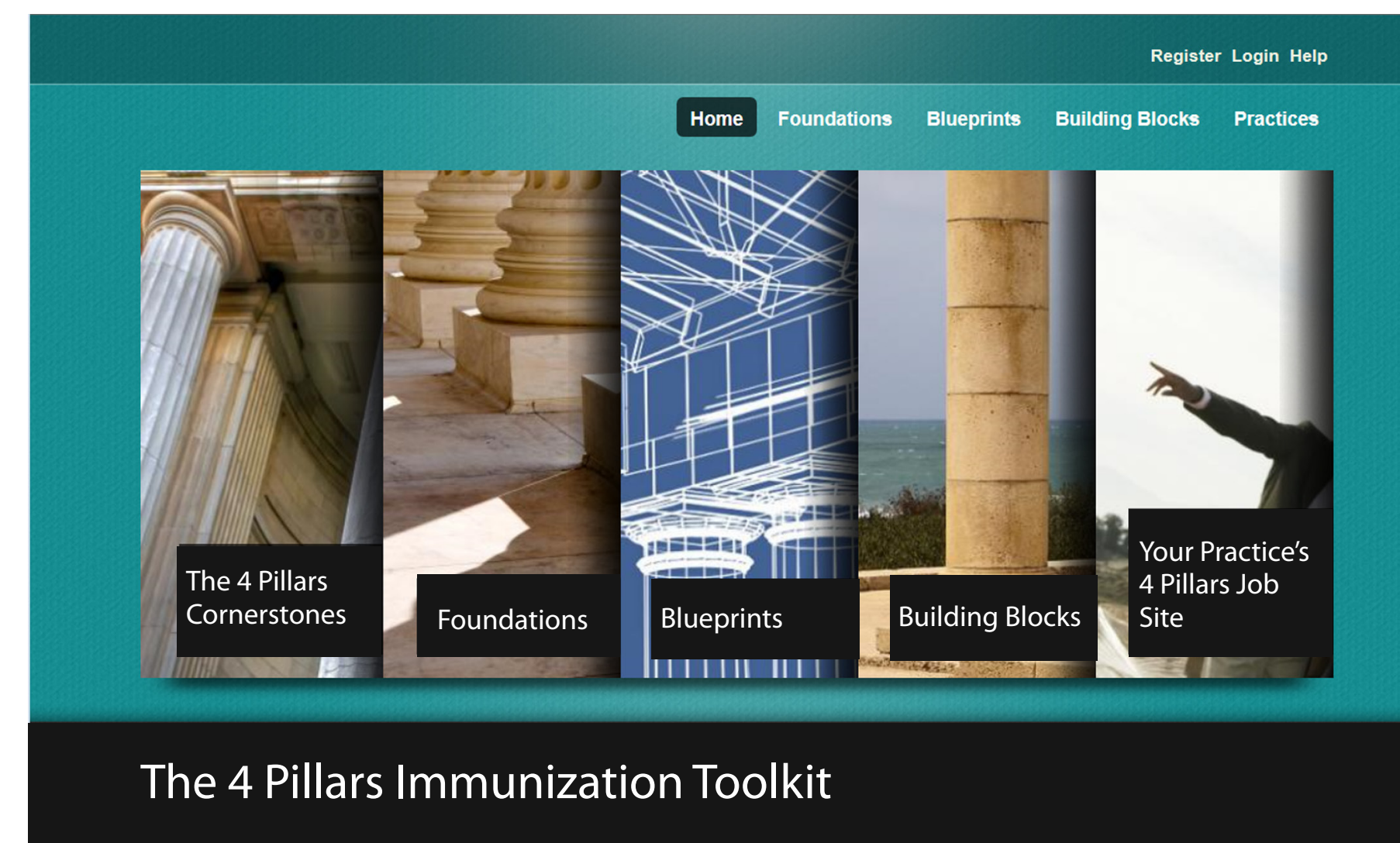
1. Convenient vaccination services
2. Notification to patients about the importance of immunization and the availability of vaccines
3. Enhanced office systems to facilitate immunization
4. Motivation through an office immunization champion who monitors progress and encourages adherence to vaccination-promoting office practices

The toolkit includes blueprints for step-by-step instructions on how to transform practices and increase immunization rates, including guides for practice registration, selecting an immunization champion, tracking progress, and creating a standing order protocol. The toolkit contains building blocks of resources that are needed to implement the blueprints and is adaptable to the culture and workflow of clinical practices.

A web-based program is being developed to guide clinical practices through the implementation of the 4 Pillars Immunization Toolkit.

Funding for this project was made possible by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research (APTR) Cooperative Agreement (No. 5U50CD300860, Project TS-1432).

### The University of Pittsburgh 4 Pillars Immunization Toolkit A Quality Improvement Project for Adult Immunization



#### Foundations

The 4 Pillars Immunization Toolkit is a comprehensive program which provides physicians and their support staff with pertinent information to implement new protocols to increase immunization rates within their practices. These foundational tools also include help with site navigation, evidence-based research supporting the Toolkit, and an overview of a standing order protocol.

#### Blueprints

Blueprints are the step-by-step instructions for transforming your practice and increasing immunization rates. Included are guides for registering your practice, selecting an immunization champion, tracking progress and creating a Standard Order Program.

#### Building Blocks

Building Blocks contains resources needed for implementing your Blueprints and establishing the transformation of your practice. Provided are Teen and Parent Flyers, Team Award Certificates, Super Vaccinator Blue Ribbon, CDC's Vaccine Stock Tally Sheet, and Sources of Vaccine Information.

#### Your Practice's 4 Pillars Job site & Plan

Your Practice's 4 Pillars Job site & Plan contains your customized intervention information. It includes everything you need to implement the 4 Pillars in your practice, including a complete list of step-by-step tasks, charts and graphs of your progress, timely messages, and all necessary resources.



For more information:  
<http://4pillarstoolkit.pitt.edu>

This "What Works" vignette is one in a series of examples collected by the Provider Workgroup of the National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit. For more information or to nominate an example of "what works" to improve adult immunization, go to <http://www.izsummitpartners.org/>. This vignette does not constitute an endorsement from any of the organizations that participate in the Provider Workgroup or the NAIS.

The 4 Pillars Immunization Toolkit was tested for influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations for adults in four urban primary care networks of over 70 practices (practice patient censuses ranged from 450 to 2,200).<sup>\*</sup> Findings include:

- Pneumococcal vaccination (PPSV) rates increased significantly overall for high-risk adults 18–64 years of age (25% in 2010–2011 vs. 40% in 2011–2012) and in two of four practices among high-risk adults 18–64 years of age and older adults ≥65 years of age
- Influenza vaccination rates increased significantly overall (22% in 2010–2011 vs. 33% in 2011–2012)
- Primary care practices that more fully implemented the toolkit had larger increases in vaccination rates

Standing order programs are a proven method of increasing adult vaccinations, yet they are underutilized by primary care physicians.

The 4 Pillars Toolkit can be useful in developing standing order programs in primary care practices to improve adult vaccination rates.

<sup>\*</sup>Nowak et al. Success of the 4 Pillars Toolkit for Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccination in Adults. Available at: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jhq.12020/full> (accessed on April 18, 2014)

