

What Works

To Improve Adult Immunization 2015

What They Did:

Results:

GuidePoint Pharmacies, owned by Laura Schwartzwald, is a small chain of nine pharmacies serving Greater Minnesota. Since 2008, Laura and GuidePoint Pharmacies have been working with other partners in Minnesota to ensure uninsured and underinsured adult patients can get vaccinated.

GuidePoint Pharmacies offer immunizations at off-site locations that are easily accessible to the population being served, including group homes and workplaces.

To increase access to adult immunization, GuidePoint Pharmacies took several steps to strengthen immunization services offered at their pharmacies and throughout the state of Minnesota. A forerunner in these efforts, GuidePoint demonstrated what we now know of as the four principles of CDC's **Standards for Adult Immunization Practice**.

1. To Improve Immunization Assessment:

- Integrated routine assessment into the policies and procedures of their pharmacies.
- Initiated use of the Minnesota Immunization Information Connection, or MIIC, the state's immunization information system (IIS) as a clinical decision support tool to assess patients' immunization histories prior to recommending and offering immunizations.

2. To Improve The Provider's Immunization Recommendation:

- Consistently gave strong provider recommendations to their patients.
- Incorporated more automatic procedures for recommending immunization to their patients with chronic diseases.

3. Pharmacies:

- Worked to improve protocols for procuring vaccines.
- Became the primary immunization provider in one county, serving largely uninsured or underinsured adults.
- Provided immunizations at worksites, group homes and nursing homes.

4. To Improve Immunization Documentation:

- Routinely documented all immunizations in MIIC since 2008.
- Worked with the state health department to actively promote use of MIIC through an educational video for pharmacists.
- In Minnesota, pharmacists are required to report the immunizations they give to their patients' primary care provider. GuidePoint Pharmacies and the Minnesota Board of Pharmacy were able to demonstrate that MIIC was an efficient mechanism for meeting pharmacists' reporting requirements. The resulting statutory amendment allowed pharmacists to use MIIC to meet this state reporting requirement, thus reducing the paperwork burden for all.

A Good Neighbor in the "Immunization Neighborhood": GuidePoint



GuidePoint Pharmacies have administered 26,276 vaccine doses to adults since 2008. All doses have been documented in the MIIC.

GuidePoint Pharmacies was an early adopter of the state's IIS, and saw its potential for improving population-based immunization rates. GuidePoint proved the value of using the IIS:

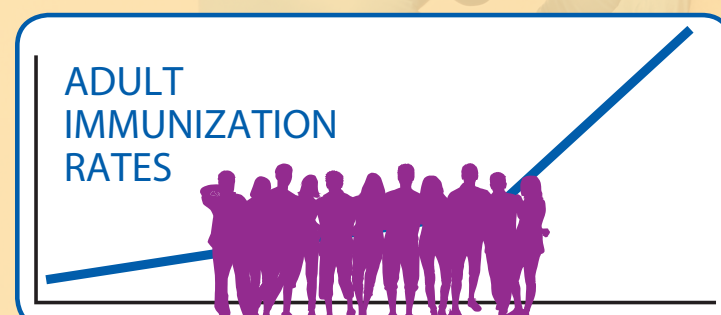
- To document immunizations;
- As a clinical decision support tool; and
- As a tool to streamline immunization data exchange between pharmacists and primary care providers.

GuidePoint Pharmacies demonstrated the **Standards for Adult Immunization Practice** long before the standards were formalized. For many years, this forward-thinking provider has been creating innovative pathways to improve immunization services to the populations most in need.

The American Pharmacists Association coined the term "immunization neighborhood" to describe the collaboration, coordination, and communication among immunization stakeholders with the goal of meeting the immunization needs of patients and protecting the community from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Through its sustained efforts over many years, GuidePoint Pharmacies shows what it means to be a good neighbor in the immunization neighborhood.

GuidePoint has been a critical partner in statewide efforts to improve immunization services for underinsured and uninsured adults in Minnesota. They are dedicated to improving immunization services for their patients and facilitating pharmacist-delivered immunization services throughout the state.



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 NAIIS.

