

NAIIS Provider Outreach Workgroup – Meeting Summary

Date of Meeting: November 5, 2015

Topic/Focus: Estimating the Cost of Adult Immunization

Speakers/Facilitators:

- Benjamin Yarnoff and Olga Khavjou (RTI)
- Laura Lee Hall (American College of Physicians)
- Angela Shen (National Vaccine Program Office)

Meeting Summary:

RTI colleagues discussed their upcoming study, *Estimating the Cost to Vaccinate Children and Adults in Public and Private Settings—Updating Old Estimates and Filling Knowledge Gaps*. ACP colleagues talked about the business tool they're developing with internal medicine physicians in mind. The goal is to put together an Excel spreadsheet that an internal medicine practice can use to decide which vaccines they should stock. NVPO's Angela Shen talked about studies they are working on and drew attention to the relevant objectives of the National Adult Vaccination Plan (see below):

Objective 1.6:

Generate and disseminate evidence about the health and economic impact of adult immunization, including potential diseases averted and cost-effectiveness with the use of current vaccines.

Generating information on the economic impact of adult immunization is a critically important element of the plan. While economic evaluations of the childhood immunization program in the United States have assessed the impact of all routinely recommended vaccines on direct and indirect costs, no parallel research has been published on adult immunization. Economic evaluations are critically important because they help to inform policymakers, health insurance plans, providers, and the public about the value and importance of adult immunizations and can inform decisions regarding promotion of and reimbursement for adult immunization services.

- 1.6.1 Encourage the development and evaluation of models to estimate the cost-effectiveness of adult immunization programs.
- 1.6.2 Encourage employers to offer and promote adult immunization using evidence on economic impact.

Objective 2.2:

Assess and improve understanding of providers' financial barriers to delivering vaccinations, including stocking and administering vaccines.

Providers need to be educated about the importance of routinely assessing the vaccine needs of their patients, strongly recommending needed vaccines, and either vaccinating or referring patients to others who administer vaccinations. They also must be empowered to pursue these activities with tailored guidance, education, and tools. Currently, many factors prevent providers from consistently vaccinating all patients who could benefit, and providers in underserved and minority communities may face unique challenges. The Affordable Care Act does not address providers' financial barriers to maintaining a vaccine inventory; thus, other policies and programs need to

focus on understanding these issues and work toward improving providers' business practices when providing vaccination services.

- 2.2.1 Research the total costs of providing vaccination services in a provider setting to improve understanding of costs associated with the range of activities that are needed to ensure efficient and effective immunization services (e.g., ordering, handling, storage, administration, patient recall/reminders, and counseling).
- 2.2.2 Encourage the development of tools to improve immunization provider business practices and work flow (e.g., practice efficiency and inventory management), and assess the impact of these tools on adult vaccination rates at the practice level.
- 2.2.3 Encourage vaccine manufacturers and third-party vaccine distributors to build on existing work with providers to reduce the financial burden of maintaining vaccine inventories (e.g., permitting providers to purchase small quantities of vaccines).
- 2.2.4 Evaluate the impact of various methods to encourage and incentivize provider recommendations for, provision of, and recordkeeping related to adult vaccination (e.g., standing orders, IIS).
- 2.2.5 Evaluate the impact of third-party billing and other business models that address financial risks associated with providing adult vaccination services and providers' ability to bill and receive payment from Medicare Part D plans.

Resources Shared: n/a

Action Item(s)/Workgroup Products: n/a