

What Works

To Improve Adult Immunization 2016

What They Did

A consortium of health care businesses and providers in Connecticut is working to improve access to influenza vaccination in their communities and workplaces. The group put in place a number of interventions to accomplish this goal, including a mobile vaccination clinic converted from a donated limousine.

Healthy Choices FastVax Mobile Clinic is a multidisciplinary partnership between Protein Sciences Corporation (PSC), Hunter's Ambulance, Inc., and Dr. Shahzad Zaki of HealthMed Urgent Care. HealthMart Pharmacy and Hartford HealthCare at Home were also strong affiliates in this collaboration.

In the 2014–15 flu season, the FastVax Mobile Clinic was deployed to a wide variety of locations, bringing vaccination services to patients who might not have otherwise had access.

The FastVax Mobile Clinic reached patients through a wide range of collaborative partners, including health departments, housing authorities, food pantries, and employers.

The mobile immunization clinic was constructed from a repurposed limousine bus donated by Hunter's Ambulance, which was outfitted with necessary equipment and supplies. A waiting area was furnished comfortably. A licensed registered nurse, employed by PSC and/or Hartford Healthcare at Home and supported by several physicians, was in charge of vaccination and medical procedures in the clinic. Documentation of vaccinations was maintained in Hartford HealthCare at Home's electronic records to ensure that vaccine recipients' primary care providers were notified.

The service was used by employers, including Gaylord Rehabilitation Hospital, a large regional inpatient/outpatient facility, which used the FastVax Clinic to run the mandated vaccination program for its 1,000 employees. Employers were provided proof of vaccination when required.

The FastVax Mobile Clinic also took services to locations set up by housing authorities and a local food pantry, thus reaching many persons who might not have access to flu vaccination.

A key operating principle of the clinic was that no one was turned away. Patients without insurance received a vaccination free of charge.

Reimbursement for immunization services from insurance plans was complicated. Insurance coverage could not always be confirmed and insurance reimbursement was not possible for many patients.

The project was publicized by announcements on radio and in print media, as well as through websites, social media, flyers, and television appearances. Several local personalities and public officials, including the governor and state senators, promoted the clinic by receiving their vaccinations on-air.

Vaccinating Against Influenza in Connecticut: A Community Response to the Challenge



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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 NAIIIS.

Results They Got

During the 2014–15 influenza season, the FastVax Mobile clinic provided flu vaccinations to 2,200 participants. About 900 of those vaccinations were in collaboration with local health departments, and 350 were given through employer-based efforts.

This mobile clinic, deployed to meet the immunization needs of a wide range of patients, is an example of a strong community effort to improve influenza vaccination coverage.

The project encountered challenges to receiving reimbursement for services from insurance plans. To overcome this, the project brought in collaborators who had broader access to insurance coverage, and also provided vaccinations at no cost to patients.

The mobile clinic was designed to meet the needs of both consumers and employers. FastVax Mobile Clinic was able to reach patients by bringing mobile immunization services to a variety of locations, managing insurance reimbursement issues, and addressing patient needs for information. The project assured the quality of its services through its clinic set-up and medical protocols. Strong promotional efforts and word of mouth resulted in a greater number of requests for the service in the upcoming 2016–17 flu season.

Due to funding limitations for influenza vaccination programs, the participating health departments welcomed this program.

FastVax Mobile Clinic proved to be an attractive option for health care facilities that mandate flu vaccination for their employees. The mobile clinic allowed employees to be vaccinated without leaving the workplace, and saved businesses and health care facilities extensive labor hours and costs by managing their vaccination programs.

Based on its success in the first year, the project is expected to have an even wider impact in the 2016–17 influenza season.

