



PATIENT SAFETY AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDER IMMUNIZATION

For the safety of the individual health care provider (HCP), fellow HCPs, and the patients we serve, all HCPs should be immune to, or have received appropriate immunizations at the intervals recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, against the following transmissible infectious diseases, unless a medical contraindication exists, or a religious objection to immunization exists:

- Diphtheria
- Influenza
- Hepatitis B
- Measles/Mumps/Rubella
- Pertussis
- Varicella

Background:

In 2010, the Board of Regents (BOR) endorsed the following patient safety and quality of care initiative: An annual influenza vaccine should be required for every health care provider with direct patient care activities, unless a medical contraindication to influenza immunization exists, or a religious objection to immunization exists.

ACP took a leadership position in endorsing this measure, and multiple other professional societies and academic as well as non-academic medical centers soon followed.

Importantly, because transmissible infectious diseases represent a threat to highly vulnerable patients, medical and nursing staff, and others, health care providers (HCP) should be immune to all those diseases for which safe and effective vaccines exist. It is also notable that by virtue of their profession, HCPs are at increased risk for exposure to these transmissible diseases.

For this reason, the Immunization Committee puts forward the following "Patient Safety and Health Care Provider Immunization" recommendation for endorsement by the BOR.

This recommendation requires immunity to diseases for which we have safe and effective vaccines against infectious diseases and that are transmissible in the health care setting to vulnerable patients. The Immunization Committee endorses this measure in the strongest possible terms and highly recommends its approval: