

Adult Immunization & Quality Improvement for Residents – Program Overview

Background

Immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases ranks as one of the ten great public health achievements in the 20th century for its ability to drastically reduce morbidity of infectious disease and to increase life expectancy. Vaccination is a cost-effective component of preventive care services and while much success has been demonstrated in vaccinating children, rates of adult immunizations are still subpar. Adult immunization rates in the United States continue to fall short of Healthy People 2020 goals despite evidence-based strategies known to increase vaccination rates.

Several barriers to increasing adult immunization exist, including patient- and provider-level barriers. For patients, barriers include a lack of awareness or fear of needed vaccines, problems accessing vaccines, and the lack of a recommendation from their health care providers. Physicians and health care teams face gaps in both knowledge of vaccine indications and strategies to successfully implement vaccination in their practice.

This program intends to improve the rate of adult immunization in practice by equipping general internal medicine residency programs with the tools to educate clinicians about the public health and clinical science of adult immunization, evidence-based strategies for improving adult immunization, and quality improvement projects to increase rates of adult immunization.

Preparatory Materials

In preparation for the program, consider reviewing the following resources for background information:

- The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice's Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule
<http://annals.org/aim/fullarticle/2671913/recommended-immunization-schedule-adults-aged-19-years-older-united-states>
- The National Vaccine Advisory Committee's "Standards for Adult Immunization Practice"
<http://www.publichealthreports.org/issueopen.cfm?articleID=3145>
- The American College of Physician's Adult Immunization Resource Hub
<http://www.acponline.org/ai>

Curriculum & Timeline

This program is composed of two modules, one on the science of adult immunization and another on quality improvement strategies for increasing adult immunization rates. The first module contains information on current vaccination rates, a review of the current immunization schedule, and a case-based review of indicated vaccines by special population group (diabetic patients, healthcare workers, pregnant women, the elderly). The vaccines focused upon include influenza, pneumococcal, tetanus/diphtheria/acellular pertussis, hepatitis B, HPV, MMR, varicella, and zoster.

The second module examines successful strategies for increasing adult immunization, including increasing provider recommendation, reminder-recall systems, provider/chart reminders, standing orders, and immunization registries. In addition, quality improvement concepts are reviewed and

example projects are given. Throughout both modules, the use of interactive teaching methods is emphasized to encourage active learning.

The course of the entire program is approximately six months. A general timeline for program implementation is as follows:

Time	Activity
Month 1	Conduct pre-survey/baseline assessment
Month 2	Module activities and identification of quality improvement activity
Months 3-5	Implementation of quality improvement activity with regular monitoring of progress
Month 6	Conduct post-survey/follow-up assessment

Facilitating Active Learning

Two of the most important goals of delivering this program are to make it locally relevant and to actively engage the learners in discussion about the issues. Below are strategies to help you achieve a successful program including small group, participatory, and active audience participation.

Effective facilitation involves asking questions to promote thinking and reflection on the material presented. Ask participants to consider the information and think out loud about what it means for them. As the information is shared, the facilitator should work to understand the meaning for the participants and make connections between individuals, between ideas and concepts, and between the various concerns or trouble spots that are raised in the discussion.

Good facilitation also includes managing both the content and the process. Watch how the conversation unfolds and be sure to notice participants who are listening intently, but not participating. Their participation may provide balance to the discussion. The discussion should be an exploration of the new ideas with real time spent on wrestling with the concepts and how they might be applied in practice.

Individual participants should be empowered to own their point of view and share it with the group to help foster group learning by illustrating how others think about the topic at hand. At the end of each module, each participant in the group should be asked to identify strategies they think will be both effective and important for increasing adult immunization.

Other Program Materials

- A **Facilitator Guide** to help with delivery of the module, including needed equipment, timing and instruction of the program, and active learning tools.
- **Module Presentations & Handouts** in PowerPoint and Word format.
- A list of **Example Quality Improvement Projects** to facilitate brainstorming of appropriate projects.
- A comprehensive **Resource List** containing patient education materials, clinical guidelines, and provider tools.
- **Program Evaluations** to assess program impact.