

I Raise the Rates Program

Dear ACP Members:

The U.S. Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has released its updated recommendations for immunization among adults, which are published in ACP's *Annals of Internal Medicine* and a link is included here: <http://annals.org/article.aspx?articleid=2484895>. ACP's Center for Quality, working with our chapter on the *I Raise the Rates* program, has supported the development of a brief video by past-ACP President Dr. Sandy Fryhofer, providing a great summary of the current recommendations. You can view the video by clicking the *Audio/Video tab*.

CDC reports in the February 5th issue of the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly* that immunization rates among adults remain unacceptably low, virtually unchanged over the last several years, with huge racial and ethnic disparities (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/ss/ss6501a1.htm>).

I believe that this state of affairs will not improve until physicians and their staff own immunization of their patients. And that is the premise of the *I Raise the Rates* program – an ACP initiative aimed at helping us efficiently and effectively implement immunizations in our practice. All of you can participate in this program – if you simply want to learn more about immunization recommendations, download resources to educate your patients, find resources to educate your staff or health system, or touch base with a practice coach to help you work on immunization in your practice. I urge every single member to work on *raising the rates*.

Sincerely,

Omar T. Atiq, MD, FACP

Governor, ACP Arkansas