Strategies to Enhance Influenza Vaccination for Practices that Care for Children and Adolescents

Develop a plan to vaccinate all staff and office members

- Educate staff on influenza, including facts; disbelieve myths. For more information go to www.michigan.gov/flu
- Stress the importance of being immunized
- Offer flu vaccine at no charge if possible
- Let parents know that the staff is vaccinated against influenza

Establish a plan for vaccinating all your patients

- Develop an office timeline that includes messages recommending vaccination for your patients
- Use a reminder system – Letters or auto-dialer phone messages
  - Mail reminders to all families about influenza in advance
  - Prepare reminders (letters or phone messages) and be flexible when scheduling appointments
  - Target high risk patients (include those who need 2 doses of vaccine in the same flu season) & their close contacts
- Utilize or develop standing orders for “vaccine-only” visits
- Use every single opportunity (both well & sick visits) to educate parents about the risks of influenza

Make influenza vaccination convenient

- Organize flu-specific vaccination clinic days and/or establish a separate flu clinic during office hours
- Consider scheduling flu vaccination clinics in December and later
- Designate a specific clinic room or area for flu administration appointments, walk-ins, or referrals
- Utilize or develop standing orders for “vaccine-only” visits

Schedule appointments

- Schedule all high-risk children and adolescents by the end of summer
- Schedule all children & adolescents who are household contacts of high-risk persons including those 0 thru 4 yrs of age
- Schedule all children 6 months thru 4 years of age by September/October
- Use the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) for reminder/recall messages
  - In September, run a provider profile of children 5 months-58 months
  - Enter “ 9’s” in all of the antigens to identify all of the children in this age group
  - Identify high risk patients in MCIR using the Influenza Screening Notification box located on the patient general information screen
  - Schedule a second appointment for those children who should receive 2 doses of vaccine
  - Recall those you have not heard from by using letters or auto-dialer phone messages

Be ready

- Use Vaccines for Children (VFC) vaccine for eligible children
- Pull charts, check VFC eligibility and MCIR for other needed immunizations in advance
- Provide Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) and vaccine screening form; have any consent forms signed at check-in
- Give influenza vaccine with other needed immunizations (i.e. DTaP #4)
- Communicate with the local health department about changes in vaccine supply & guidelines as needed throughout influenza season

Let parents know their child needs flu vaccine. A healthcare provider's recommendation to vaccinate has the most influence on parents.

- Educate parents using flyers, posters in the office, mailings, well child visits, and VIS

Vaccinate prior to and throughout flu season (October to March). If needed, order more vaccine to ensure your patients are protected.

- Check at all well child and sick visits during the flu season for the need for influenza vaccine
- Recall patients you have not heard from by using letters and auto-dialer phone messages
- Remind families of a flu clinic or the need to schedule an appointment

Use MCIR to document all vaccines administered and to give the parents a record of their child's immunizations

Evaluate your plan and determine your progress

- Review charts to assure that all your eligible, high-risk patients (i.e. diabetic, asthmatics) have been vaccinated
- Track the number of influenza vaccine doses administered each year to patients and staff

August 31, 2007