

Strategies to Enhance Influenza Vaccination for Practices that Care for Adults

General Practice, Family Practice, Internal Medicine, and Specialists including Obstetricians, Gynecologists, Cardiologists, Pulmonologists, Allergists, Endocrinologists, Infectious Disease Personnel, and other related specialties

Develop a plan to vaccinate all staff and office members

Educate staff on influenza, including facts; dispel 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 your patients know that the staff is vaccinated against influenza.
Monitor your progress. Track the number of influenza vaccine doses administered to staff.

Establish a plan for vaccinating all your patients

Develop an office timeline that includes messages recommending vaccination for your patients
Prepare reminders (letters or phone messages) and be flexible when scheduling appointments
Target messages to high risk patients, their close contacts and other patients who may want to be vaccinated
Remind patients of a flu clinic or the need to schedule an appointment
Utilize or develop standing orders for “vaccine-only” visits
Use every single opportunity (both well & sick visits) to educate patients 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

Schedule appointments

Schedule all high-risk adults by the end of summer
Schedule all adults who are household contacts of high-risk persons
Schedule all adults who are household contacts of children birth through 4 years of age
Use the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) - Identify high-risk patients in MCIR using the Influenza Screening Notification box located on the patient general information screen for reminder/recall messages
Recall those you have not heard from by using letters or auto-dialer phone messages

Be ready

Pull charts, assess for other needed immunizations in advance
Provide Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) and screening forms; have any consent forms signed at check-in
Give influenza vaccine with other needed immunizations (i.e. Td, PPV23)
Communicate with your local health department regarding changes in vaccination guidelines and vaccine supply as needed throughout the influenza season

Recommend influenza vaccine to your patients. A healthcare provider's recommendation to vaccinate has a significant influence on patients.

Educate patients and staff members using flyers, posters in the office, mailings, well visits, and VIS

Vaccinate prior to and throughout the entire flu season (October to March)

Check at all well and sick visits during the flu season for the need for influenza vaccine
Recall patients you have not heard from by using letters or auto-dialer phone messages
Order more flu vaccine as needed to ensure your patients are protected. .

Document all vaccine doses administered on the vaccine administration record and in the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR). Give the patient a record of their immunizations.

Vaccines administered to adults can now be documented in MCIR
Ask your patients if they received influenza vaccine this season (i.e. community sites); document this dose of vaccine on the vaccine administration record and MCIR
Check MCIR for any previous doses of influenza vaccine your patient may have received

Evaluate your plan and determine progress made.

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