

# Incorporating Immunizations into the Standard Assessment

Delmarva's Annual  
***Courage to Change*** Conference

The Inn and Conference Center  
University of Maryland  
September 28, 2006

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# Goals

- **Keep your patients healthy and at home.**
- **Act now! Prevention makes your work easier.**
- **Keep track of vaccine coverage levels and celebrate your successes!**
- **Partner with Delmarva to incorporate standardized assessments for influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations for your patients**

# Objectives

- **Protect patients, yourself and others from influenza and pneumococcal diseases**
- **Best Practices are:**
  - **Assess needs for vaccination**
  - **Provide access to vaccination**
  - **Document status of vaccination**
  - **Evaluate your programs and share your results**

# Why?

- Annual epidemics of influenza take a huge toll
  - Virtually all of your patients are high risk
  - 6<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death (pneumonia and influenza) all persons and over age 65 years (CDC stats, 3/2006)
  - Immunization is still the best intervention
- Influenza disease increases susceptibility to serious complications from preventable bacterial infections, e.g., *Streptococcus pneumoniae*

# Why not ...

- **Vaccinate your patients against pneumococcal disease?**
  - **Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine is 60-70% effective against invasive disease (meningitis, septicemia)**
- **Vaccinate your patients and health care workers against influenza to protect your patients?**
  - **80% effective in healthy adults; 40% in frail elderly**
  - **80% effective in preventing death**

# Who?

- Assess all of your patients
- Get *your* flu vaccinations!

# When?

- **Assess on admission year-round for pneumococcal vaccination**
- **Conduct annual influenza vaccination campaigns (Kick-off in September / October continuing through the end of April)**

# How?

- **Implement Standing Orders Programs for Patients**
  - **Less burdensome on community physicians and home health agency staff than standard care**
  - **Includes standardized assessments for influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations**
  - **Permits nurses or pharmacists to vaccinate by medical-director approved protocols**
- **Initiate Employee Immunization Programs**
  - **Remove barriers (cost, convenience, myths)**

# What about *Vaccine Storage and Handling?*

- TIV – Trivalent Influenza Vaccine
  - Storage Requirements:  
**Refrigerate immediately upon arrival. Store at 35° to 46°F (2° to 8°C).  
*Do not freeze or expose to freezing temperatures.***
  - Shelf Life:  
**Formulated for use during current influenza season.**
  - Instructions for Use:  
**Shake vial vigorously before withdrawal and use.**
- PPV – Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine
  - Storage Requirements:  
**Same as TIV above**
  - Shelf Life:  
**Check expiration date on vial or container.**
  - Instructions for Use:  
**Follow manufacturer's directions.**

# Where?

- **Document in standard Vaccination Administration Record**
  - **Maintain in front of current health records**
- **Keep simple logs of vaccination status of all patients**
  - **Know the coverage levels of your patient populations**

# What?

- Use Delmarva's Immunization Toolkit
- Visit CDC's National Immunization Program (NIP) often
  - Download *The Pink Book*  
[CDC.GOV/NIP/publications/pink](https://www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/pink)
  - Call 800-CDC-INFO
  - Email at [NIPinfo@CDC.gov](mailto:NIPinfo@CDC.gov)
  - Get notices of educational programs
    - [CDC.GOV/NIP/ED](https://www.cdc.gov/nip/ed)

# What else?

- Aim for 100% coverage of recommended vaccines for patients who are eligible
  - Ask, but anticipate few contraindications
  - Expect to educate and re-educate (“because it’s important”)
  - Check, but if no documentation of vaccination is available, *recommend* vaccination!
  - Please, get *your* flu vaccinations!

***Make Prevention a Priority***  
*and incorporate immunization*  
*into the standard assessment of*  
*home health agency patients now*  
*(Influenza Season is **HERE**)*

*Thank you!*

**Your questions?**