

Immunization Hot Topics!

Adult and Pediatric Standards of Care Issue 4 of 5



Your patients trust you to give them the best advice on how to protect their health. Vaccine-preventable diseases can result in serious illness, hospitalization, and even death. Adult and pediatric vaccinations are part of the standard of care.

Standards for Adult Immunization Practice

ASSESS immunization status of all your patients at every clinical encounter

- Stay informed, by getting the latest CDC recommendations for immunization of adults
- Implement protocols in your office to ensure that patients' vaccine needs are routinely reviewed and patients get reminders about vaccines they need

STRONGLY RECOMMEND vaccines that patients need

- Address patient questions and concerns in clear and understandable language
- Highlight your positive experiences with vaccination (personal or in your practice)

ADMINISTER needed vaccines or **REFER** your patients to a vaccination provider

- Offer the vaccines you stock
- For vaccines that you don't stock, refer patients to providers in the area that offer vaccination services

DOCUMENT vaccines received by your patients

- Participate in the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) to help your office, your patients, and your patients' other providers know which vaccines your patients have received

Your patients are probably not getting the vaccines they need.

Even though most insurance plans cover the cost of recommended vaccines, adult vaccination rates in the U.S. are extremely low. Each year, tens of thousands of adults needlessly suffer, are hospitalized, and even die as a result of diseases that could be prevented by vaccines.

Your patients are likely not aware that they need vaccines.

Although most adults do believe immunizations are important, many don't know which vaccines are recommended for them throughout their lives. Many also report not receiving vaccine recommendations from their healthcare professional.

You play a role in ensuring that your patients are fully immunized.

Clinicians are the most valued and trusted source of health information for adults. Your patients rely on you to inform them about the vaccines they need. Research shows that a recommendation from their healthcare professional is the top predictor of patients getting vaccinated.

“Standards for Adult Immunization Practice”: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/adults/for-practice/standards/index.html>

Standards for Pediatric Immunization Practice

1. Immunization services should be readily available
2. There should be no barriers or unnecessary prerequisites to the receipt of vaccines
3. Immunization services should be available for free or for a minimal fee
4. Utilize all clinical encounters to screen for needed vaccines and, when indicated, vaccinate children
5. Educate parents and guardians about the importance of immunizations in general terms
6. Screen for contraindications and precautions before vaccinating a child; inform the parent or guardian in specific terms about the risks and benefits of the vaccinations their child is to receive
7. Follow only true contraindications
8. Administer all vaccine doses simultaneously at the time of each visit for which a child is eligible
9. Use accurate and complete recording procedures
10. Co-schedule immunization appointments in conjunction with appointments for other child health services
11. Report adverse events following vaccination promptly, accurately and completely
12. Operate a tracking system to generate reminders and recalls
13. Adhere to appropriate procedures for vaccine management
14. Conduct semi-annual audits to assess immunization coverage levels and to review immunization records in the patient populations you serve
15. Maintain up-to-date, easily retrievable medical protocols at all locations where vaccines are administered
16. Practice patient-oriented and community based approaches
17. Administer vaccines by properly trained persons
18. Receive ongoing education and training regarding current immunization recommendations

These pediatric standards are recommended for use by all health professionals in the public and private sector who administer vaccines to or manage immunization services for infants and children.

“Standards for Pediatric Immunization Practices.” *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*. April 23, 1993. Vol. 42(RR-5): <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00020935.htm>



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