Vaccination of Older Adults: Patient and Provider Issues

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Community Immunity
[~ Herd Immunity]

- Immunization of a majority of a population protects those vaccinated and a proportion of the unvaccinated by limiting disease spread...
- Implications at all levels of society
  - Unvaccinated ‘cul-de-sac’ in a highly vaccinated city
  - Vaccine effectiveness, how contagious the disease is and vaccination rate all affect Community Immunity
- Gradual decline in vaccination will leave more vulnerable to outbreak
- Persons at increased individual risk are the most ‘at risk..’ in any scenario
Vaccine Hesitancy and Anti-Vaccine

- Issue going back to 17th Century when Jenner introduced Smallpox vaccine
- Many reasons patients are hesitant and/or refuse
- To maximize value of immunization to individuals and society
  - High vaccination rates for all vaccine-preventable diseases are needed

Vaccines are:
- Safe, effective
- Help optimize health, minimize disease risk
- Vaccines can help protect you, your family and your community

Vaccine Supply and Demand

- Vaccines can be ordered from a number of different suppliers
  - Costs can vary significantly, most require payment on order
  - ‘Supply chain and administration effectiveness’ are critical to vaccinating providers’ ability to provide vaccines

- What is reimbursed for vaccines and vaccine administration fees are published by CMS
  - Most private insurers base their payment on CMS/Medicare rates.
  - With good match between vaccine usage, efficient work process, effective reimbursement
    a practice can break even or make a few $$ with vaccination

https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Part-B-Drugs/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/VaccinesPricing.html
Increased provider vaccination translates into:

- **Patient safety:** Lower patient risk
- **Provider safety:** Lower absenteeism, ‘inefficiency’
- **Community safety:** Reduce transmission

While provider uptake **should be** ‘a given,’ it is not...

We have achieved gains; yet HCP rates still not consistently to goal levels, even with support of specialty organizations and mandates.

**BEST PRACTICE #1:**
- HCP INSURE ENTIRE TEAM IS VACCINATED [MEASURE, REPORT +/- MANDATE].
- ASSURE TEAM MEMBERS UNDERSTAND VALUE AND BENEFITS OF VACCINATION
- VACCINATE PATIENTS AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY OR VISIT TYPE

Challenges:

- Vaccine availability
- Office team buy-in
- Immunize without breaking [something else]
- Financial concerns-Vaccine coverage [esp. Shingles, Tdap in seniors]
- Information flow [Quality reporting, outside vaccination info]
- Competing demands within fixed time/resources

**BEST PRACTICE #2:** OFFICE
- DESIGNATE A VACCINATION CHAMPION
- PROVIDE TEAM BASED VACCINATION USING STANDING ORDERS, SET ‘VACCINE CLINICS,’ PARTNER WITH COMMUNITY VACCINATORS
Hospitals

Challenges:
- Competing demands within fixed time/resources
- Timing and maximizing benefits in ‘sick’ inpatients
- Effective use of Vaccine resources [Td/Tdap, Influenza,
  Pneumococcal are primary hospital vaccines in seniors]
- Vaccine availability
- Information flow

**BEST PRACTICE #3: HOSPITAL**
- EDUCATED AND FULLY VACCINATED STAFF
- STANDING ORDERS AND PROCEDURES [BUILT INTO EMR] WITH AUTOMATED REPORTING TO REGISTRY
- VACCINATE [Employees, Patients] EARLY AND OFTEN
- INCLUDE NONTRADITIONAL SITES [PACU, ADMISSION, VACCINE CARTS/CLINICS]

Long Term Care

Challenges:
- Competing demands within fixed/ relatively low resources
- Resistance [staff, family, patient]
- Mandates [Vary by state, may/not facilitate vaccine acquisition]
- Vaccine information flow

**BEST PRACTICE #4: LONG-TERM CARE**
- EDUCATED AND FULLY VACCINATED STAFF.
- ADMISSION VACCINATION BY STANDING ORDER.
- COLLABORATION WITH COMMUNITY IMMUNIZERS.
- ENGAGE REGISTRY HOLDERS TO ASSURE TRANSPARENT REPORTING WORKFLOW.
Community

Communication and sustaining messages:
- HIGH Value + LOW Risk → Overcome resistance
- Immunizing the ‘unworried well’
- Vaccine availability esp. in rural and low-resource areas
- Staffing
- Immunization Neighborhood
- Information flow

BEST PRACTICE #5: COMMUNITY
- INFORM AND EDUCATE COMMUNITY LEADERS, PRESS.
- FACILITATE IMMUNIZATION NEIGHBORHOOD
  Vaccination collaboration including public health, medical homes, hospitals, pharmacies, community immunizers, etc.

Resources

https://www.adultvaccinesnow.org/
https://www.acponline.org/clinical-information/clinical-resources-products/adult-immunization
http://www.adultvaccination.org/cai
http://www.immunize.org/

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