Improving Medicare Beneficiary Immunization Assessment and Vaccine Rates for:
Influenza
Herpes Zoster
Pneumococcal Pneumonia

Thomas Lemme, PA-C, MA, MBA
Annual Westchester/Rockland Adult Immunization Coalition Meeting
October 11, 2017

Presentation Objectives

- Overview of IPRO’s Immunization Project
- Challenges in IPRO’s Immunization Project
- Overview of NYS Immunization Laws and Registry Reporting
The federally funded Medicare Quality Innovation Network – Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) for New York State.

Under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Leading the Atlantic Quality Innovation Network (AQIN).

One of 14 QIN-QIOs across the country working to provide quality improvement learning opportunities, technical assistance and free resources in support of CMS healthcare quality goals.

Led by IPRO in New York State.

Partners include Delmarva Foundation in the District of Columbia and the Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence in South Carolina.
Healthy People 2020 Immunization Goals for Adults: NYS Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine Type and Age</th>
<th>Goal Rates</th>
<th>Current Rates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pneumococcal (65 or older)</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>65.4% (2014 NY)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>69.7% (2015 NY)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Influenza (65 and older)</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>66.5% (2014-15) (flu season NY)</td>
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<td>66.0% (2015-16) (flu season NY)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Herpes Zoster (60 and older)</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>26.4% (2014 NY)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N/A (2015 NY)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: AdultVaxView CDC
https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/coverage/adultvaxview/data-reports/general-population/reports/2015.html

Source: 2014-15 Influenza Season Vaccination Coverage Report CDC
National Immunization Survey-Flu (NIS-Flu) and Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS 2015-16 influenza season)

IPRO Adult Immunizations Project Goals

By July 2019:
- Reach immunization rates of 70% for influenza, 90% for pneumonia and 30% for herpes.
- Reduce disparities among racial and ethnic minorities and rural Medicare beneficiaries.
- Increase adult immunization status assessment.
- Ensure that Medicare beneficiary immunization status includes reporting immunizations to NYS DOH Immunization Information System (IIS) or New York Citywide Immunization Registry (NY CIR) via CEHRT and other electronic methods.
**Project Recruitment**

**Target: 900 physicians/clinicians by December 31, 2016**
- 910 were recruited, predominantly from participants enrolled in other IPRO projects (e.g., Cardiovascular Health).

**Target: 20 home health agencies by December 31, 2016**
- 22 were recruited.

**Target: 175,000 beneficiaries for influenza vaccine**
- 180,035 beneficiaries were recruited for influenza vaccines.

**Target: 175,000 beneficiaries for pneumococcal vaccine**
- 180,035 beneficiaries were recruited for pneumococcal vaccines.
FSS Medicare Beneficiaries Received Flu Vaccine 2014-2016

PNE Immunization Rate of NY HHAs: Not Recruited vs. Recruited
Adult Immunizations: Project Challenges

Recruitment of 910 clinicians was demanding, due in part, to the lack of incentives to join the project.

Practices already participating with IPRO were invited to join this project, which led to “project fatigue.”

Requesting data at individual clinician level is problematic for some practices.

Limiting the focus to Medicare FFS beneficiaries is not realistic for practices; they are interested in vaccine status of all patients.

Majority of clinicians are not reporting immunizations to PQRS, which makes data extraction more difficult.

Time commitment necessary for clinicians to participate in webinars is difficult.
Adult Immunizations: Patient-related Challenges

Lack of practitioner, provider, and beneficiary knowledge about the recommendations and necessity for immunizations of healthy and at-risk adults.

Acute care and chronic care have had priority over preventive services.

Some providers not offering vaccines or offering only a subset of vaccines recommended for beneficiaries.

Third-party payers do not pay all practitioners or providers that administer immunizations.

Beneficiaries may see several practitioners or providers, which may complicate coordination of care.

Assistance Provided to Participating Practices

Technical assistance offered via onsite meetings, e-mail, telephone, teleconferences, and webinars:

- assistance with EMR reminder systems
- work flow assessments
- use of standing orders
- using immunization measures for CMS incentive programs such as PQRS and Meaningful Use (now part of the Quality Payment Program)

Request and review data of individual clinicians in practices and health centers.

Distribute CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) annual Recommended Immunization Schedules for Adults and other updates.
Assistance Provided to Participating Practices

Staff and patient education resources distributed and discussed at quarterly project meetings (webinars).

Preventive services reminder poster (in English and Spanish) distributed to practices.

Immunization resources posted on AQIN-NY website (atlanticquality.org).

Distributed information and presented webinars on immunization registries of NYS DOH (IIS) and NYC DOHMH (NY CIR).
HHAs advised to access Home Health Quality Improvement (HHQI) website (homehealthquality.org) and download resource materials.

Webinars presented to introduce HHAs to reports available on HHQI. Data imported from OASIS.

Technical assistance provided through on-site meetings, telephone, e-mail, teleconferences and webinars.

Comparison data reports distributed to HHAs for influenza and pneumococcal vaccines.
Disparities and Adult Vaccination Rates-2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Immunization Type</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Seasonal Influenza</strong></td>
<td>41.7%</td>
<td>44.5%</td>
<td>36.6%</td>
<td>34.4%</td>
<td>44.0%</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>18+ (2015-16)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pneumococcal</strong></td>
<td>63.6%</td>
<td>68.1%</td>
<td>50.2%</td>
<td>41.7%</td>
<td>49.0%</td>
<td>62.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt;65 (2015)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Herpes Zoster</strong></td>
<td>30.6%</td>
<td>34.6%</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
<td>26.0%</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt;60 (2015)</td>
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</table>

Source: FluVaxView CDC
Flu Vaccination Coverage, United States, 2015-16 Influenza Season
https://www.cdc.gov/flu/fluvaxview/coverage-1516estimates.htm

Source: AdultVaxView CDC
National Health Interview Survey, United States, 2015 Pneumococcal and Herpes Zoster Vaccine Coverage
https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/coverage/adultvaxview/coverage-estimates/2015.html#table5

Community Outreach

Immunization-focused issue of Healthy Insights IPRO newsletter distributed annually to 280 senior citizen centers and libraries in NYS.

Immunization presentations at senior citizen centers in NYC began in August 2017.

“Electronic billboard” (in English and Spanish) displayed at entrance to 6 subway lines in Brooklyn in September & October 2017.
PROTECT YOURSELF. PROTECT OTHERS.

Take charge of your health and protect yourself and others.

It is important to take steps to protect yourself.

• Take steps to reduce your risk.
• Take steps to reduce your exposure to the virus.
• Take steps to protect others from the virus.

Protect yourself and protect others.

Help protect yourself and others.

• Get vaccinated.
• Get tested.
• Wear a mask when out in public.

For more information, visit www.ipro.org/healthinsights.

PROTECTION TIPS

• Avoid close contact with sick people.
• Avoid crowded places.
• Avoid touching your face.
• Wash your hands often.
• Use hand sanitizer.
• Stay home when you are sick.

For more information, visit www.ipro.org/healthinsights.

Acknowledgments

The following organizations helped with the development of this message:

• IPRO
• The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
• The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

For more information, visit www.ipro.org/healthinsights.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.IPRO.ORG/HEALTHINSIGHTS

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NYS Immunization Registry Laws and Regulations

- NYS Public Health Law Section 2168 requires healthcare providers to report all immunizations administered to persons less than 19 years of age, along with the person's immunization history, to the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS), for immunizations administered outside of New York City (NYC) or to the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR), for immunizations administered within NYC.

- In addition, Public Health Law Section 2168 requires registered nurses and pharmacists, authorized to administer immunizations, to report immunizations administered to adults ages 19 years and older to NYSIIS or the CIR upon consent of the patient.

- Other healthcare providers may report immunizations administered to adults to NYSIIS or the CIR upon consent of the patient.
NYS Immunization Registry Laws and Regulations (continued)

Pharmacists administering vaccines:

- NYS Education Law Sections 6527, 6801, and 6909 permit licensed pharmacists, who obtain an additional certification, to administer influenza, pneumococcal, meningococcal, tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis and herpes zoster vaccinations to adults 18 years of age and older under either patient specific or non-patient specific orders.
- Pharmacists who administer vaccines must report doses administered to NYSIIS or the CIR according to NYS immunization registry reporting requirements as described above.
- In the event that an adult aged 19 years and older does not consent to registry reporting, then the pharmacist must report such administration to the patient's primary care practitioner and must also document the dose in the annual New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Certified Immunizer Survey.

Resources

- Atlantic Quality Innovation Network
  www.atlanticquality.org/initiatives/immunization/
- American College of Physicians Adult Immunizations
  https://www.acponline.org/clinical-information/clinical-resources-products/adult-immunization
- CDC Immunizations
  http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/index.html
- CDC Immunization Schedules
  http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/index.html
- Home Health Quality Improvement (HHQI)
  http://www.homehealthquality.org/Home.aspx
- Immunization Action Coalition Vaccines
  http://www.vaccineinformation.org/vaccine-basics/
Resources (continued)

- NYS DOH Vaccinations
  http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/

- National Foundation for Infectious Diseases
  http://www.nfid.org/professional-education/online/#webinars

- Vaccine Administration (CDC)
  https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/recs-guidelines.html

- Vaccine Educational Materials (CDC) for Professionals
  http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/index.html

- Vaccine Educational Materials (CDC) for Patients

Resources (continued)

- Vaccine Information Statements (CDC)
  http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/index.html

- Vaccines for Adults Program (NYS DOH)
  https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/providers/state_vaccines_for_adults_program.htm

- Vaccines for Children Program (NYC DOHMH)
  http://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/providers/nyc-med-cir/vaccines-for-children-program.page

- Vaccine Storage and Handling (CDC)

- Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit (CDC)
  https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/storage/toolkit/storage-handling-toolkit.pdf
For more information

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