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Assessment, Feedback, Incentives, and eXchange (AFIX) A Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Tool

Overview

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) is an approach to quality management that builds upon traditional quality assurance methods by emphasizing the organization and systems. It focuses on the process and promotes the need for objective data to analyze and improve processes. CQI usually involves a common set of characteristics including a link to an organization's strategic plan; a quality improvement team; training; mechanisms for selecting improvement opportunities; a process for analysis and redesign; and an organizational culture that supports continual learning, systems, and process improvement.

AFIX (Assessment, Feedback, Incentive, and eXchange) is a continuous quality improvement (CQI) process that is used to improve provider practice and raise immunization coverage rates. The AFIX Standards are organized into two levels: Level I (required) and Level II (recommended). These standards are intended for use by the grantee program staff overseeing the AFIX program. They are designed to assist the AFIX Coordinator in implementing, managing, and evaluating the AFIX program. Within each level there are 6 program components, including program operations, assessment, feedback, incentives, exchange of information and program evaluation.

A Level I AFIX Program is a program that is systematically implementing the basic grant requirements of the AFIX program. A Level II Program is recommended and focuses on improving existing protocols and increasing activity, as well as developing plans for additional objectives and goals. Grantees are encouraged to consider these recommendations as part of their AFIX program.

References

- AFIX Website: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/afix/default.htm>
- AFIX Standards Guide: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/afix/stds-guide.htm>
- Comprehensive CASA Website: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/cocasa/default.htm>
- 2008-2012 Immunization Program Operations Manual (IPOM) Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 8
- 2008-2012 IPOM Chapter "The Basics" document entitled "Guidelines for Writing Grant Objectives and Differentiating Between Objectives, Activities, and Evaluation Measures"

Program Requirements

4.1 Annually, review and maintain achievement of Level 1 (required) AFIX Standards.

Required activities

- 4.1a. Each grantee will be required to submit an electronic copy of its AFIX written policies and procedures with its 2008 VFC Management Survey due on March 1, 2009. The policies and procedures should reflect the implementation of all Level I AFIX Standards at the "fully met" or "partially met" level.

Use the AFIX Standards Self Assessment Worksheet to determine the components of the Level 1 Standards that have been achieved and to identify other areas that will be addressed.

4.1b. Include a copy of the self-assessment worksheet with your grant application.

Recommended activities

4.1c. As needed, request technical assistance from CDC AFIX staff during the development of policies/procedures related to Level I AFIX Standards.

4.2 For those with an IIS containing 2 or more immunizations for 70% or more of children younger than age 6, use the IIS as the primary source from which records are used to assess immunization coverage levels.

Required activities

4.2a. Work with IIS team to develop a methodology to use the IIS to assess immunization coverage rates.

Recommended activities

4.2b. Continually assess reliability and use of IIS data. Develop a quality improvement initiative once gaps are identified to improve data.

4.2c. Begin discussions with IIS staff regarding possible benchmark and/or assessment reports that can be generated from the IIS.

4.2d. Once the methodology is drafted, consider running a pilot to assess functionality and implementation of IIS coverage assessments.

4.3 Additional Activities

Recommended activities

4.3a. Conduct assessment of adolescent vaccination coverage levels during AFIX visits.

4.3b. Conduct assessment of adult vaccination coverage levels during AFIX visits.