



GPRC Bulletin 07-01

SUBJECT: Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccinations

DATE: October 17, 2006

To: Executive Directors

CC: Site Managers, Clinical Directors, GPRC Coordinators

2006 Results

The Indian Health Service has GPRC measures for both Influenza and Pneumococcal vaccinations of patients age 65 and older, a high-risk group. In 2006, only 49% of eligible patients in the California Area received the flu vaccine, compared to 58% of eligible patients age 65 and older nationally. In 2005, 58% of eligible patients in California and 59% of eligible patients nationally received the flu vaccine, despite vaccine shortages early in the flu season. Increased vaccination rates will help protect this high-risk group from contracting the flu and developing serious flu-related complications, including pneumonia.

In 2006, the Pneumococcal vaccination rate in the California Area was 72%, a 1% increase over 2005. The national IHS average was 74%, a 5% increase over the national average of 69%. The target rate for this year is 76%, and the target for 2010 is 90%. This measure is based on patients receiving one Pneumococcal vaccination ever.

Further Recommendations

Flu vaccines should be offered during visits beginning in the fall as soon as vaccine is available and throughout the influenza season. If eligible patients have never received the Pneumococcal vaccine, they should be offered that vaccine at the same time. The offer of vaccination and its receipt or refusal should be documented in the patient's medical record. Patients for whom vaccination is recommended and who do not have regularly scheduled visits during the fall should be reminded by mail, telephone, or other means of the need for vaccination.

Tips and Tricks for full GPRC credit:

The latest version of the Clinical Reporting System (the RPMS software package designed for monitoring and reporting of clinical GPRC measures) includes a new feature that allows clinics to create lists of patients missing any GPRC screening or procedure, so that they can be scheduled for appointments. Patient lists for each vaccination can also be prepared. Specific directions for preparing these lists appear in the CRS User manual beginning on page 126. Please contact elaine.brinn@ihs.gov, Janae.price@ihs.gov, susan.ducore@ihs.gov or Cynthia.perez@ihs.gov for additional assistance if needed.