Adult Immunizations: Successful Programs Leading the Way to Higher Rates

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES
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CHIEF, MEDI-CAL PHARMACY POLICY
“Deciding to make a change: A state’s approach to improve access to immunizations”
Medi-Cal covers nearly 13.5 million Californians

Nearly one in three Californians have Medi-Cal coverage
62% of those covered by Medi-Cal are families with children.

Medi-Cal covers more than one in five California seniors and one in two people with disabilities.

Medi-Cal covers three in five nursing facility residents.

Two in three adult Medi-Cal beneficiaries is in the labor force.

Nearly 80% of Californians with Medi-Cal report having a usual source of care

Californiaians with Medi-Cal are 38% more likely to receive routine checkups than the uninsured.

(The California Health Interview Survey- UCLA Center for Health Policy Research)
Medi-Cal Covers Californians in All Stages Of Life

Medi-Cal Covers
More than 1 in 5
Californians age 65+
For every $1 Medi-Cal spends on preventative care ---
California can save $3 in health Care costs

(California Healthcare Foundation – Prevention Institute)
Pharmacy Benefit Policy Change 2016

- In February 2016, DHCS Pharmacy Benefits Division expanded the scope of benefit of adult vaccines in pharmacies for the state’s FFS program.

- In August 2016, DHCS sent an All Plan Letter to MCPs clarifying that MCPs must also cover all adult ACIP-recommended vaccines as a pharmacy benefit.

- As of spring 2017, all 23 MCPs offer all ACIP adult vaccines as a pharmacy benefit.

- California is now one of only a few states to cover all routine adult immunizations as a pharmacy benefit in the Medicaid population.
Serendipity:
The occurrence and development of events by chance in a happy or beneficial way!

COINCIDENCES, SYNCHRONICITIES AND SERENDIPITIES ARE ALL SIGNS FROM THE UNIVERSE THAT YOU ARE ON YOUR TRUE PATH.
Pharmacists may independently initiate and administer immunizations to patients 3 years of age and older if certain training, certification, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements are met.

The regulation implementing SB 493 requires specific training and education, notification of health care providers about the immunizations, and document retention for pharmacists who administer vaccines. The regulation became effective August 25, 2016. AND.....
The Medi-Cal pharmacy benefit went from...

Pneumococcal and Influenza vaccines
...to all ACIP recommended adult vaccines
CHALLENGES

Tap potential of CA’s 6000 pharmacies
CHALLENGES

Get Managed Care Plans on Board
Challenges

Get the word out to all parties
California Immunization Registry
OUTCOMES

Let the numbers speak!
Number of Vaccines Reimbursed

Medi-Cal FFS and MCPs Vaccines January 2015 - June 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>FFS</th>
<th>MCPs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/2015-6/2015</td>
<td>2,676</td>
<td>10,885</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/2015-12/2015</td>
<td>22,459</td>
<td>106,484</td>
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<td>1/2016-6/2016</td>
<td>3,044</td>
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<td>7/2016-12/2016</td>
<td>19,989</td>
<td>157,560</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2017-6/2017</td>
<td>3,136</td>
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Types of Vaccines Reimbursed

Medi-Cal FFS and MCPs Vaccines July 2015 - December 2015

Medi-Cal FFS and MCPs Vaccines July 2016 - December 2016
Numbers continue to increase
Comparison by age group

Medi-Cal and MCPs: Total # of Vaccine Doses by Age Group
Types of Vaccines (55 and over)

Medi-Cal and MCPs: # of Total Vaccine Doses (Ages 55 and older July 2016 to June 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>FFS</th>
<th>MCPs</th>
<th>Hep A</th>
<th>Hep A-B</th>
<th>Hep B</th>
<th>Influenza</th>
<th>Mening ACWY conj.</th>
<th>Mening B</th>
<th>Pneumo conjugate</th>
<th>Tdap</th>
<th>Zoster</th>
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<td>1031</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>999</td>
<td>2436</td>
<td>106782</td>
<td>220</td>
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<td>7071</td>
<td>4709</td>
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<td>Mening ACWY</td>
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<td>Influenza</td>
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Lessons Learned

1. Immunization access in offices and clinics may be diminishing
2. Offices and clinics cannot/will not respond to immunization related needs as quickly as pharmacy providers can
3. Managed care “buy in” is imperative
4. Effective, timely and ongoing communication with all stakeholders is essential
5. The proper resources at the proper time makes all the difference
Be Flexible and…
“Make them think it was their idea!”

Don't let your fear of what could happen make nothing happen.

Help them help themselves (aka. Make them think its their idea.....been working for years over here....)
Some Successes Already

Meningitis (Meningococcal Disease) in Gay Men/Men who have Sex with Men

Who should get the Vaccine?

Recent LA County data shows more cases than usual among gay men/men who have sex with men (MSM). This sheet describes the disease, who should get vaccinated, and where to get vaccinated.

1. What is meningococcal disease?
Meningococcal disease is a rare, but serious disease. It’s caused by bacteria (germs). It can lead to serious problems, like:
- Meningitis (swelling in the brain and spinal cord)
- Deafness
- Brain damage

California declares state of emergency over deadly hepatitis A outbreak

Number of hepatitis A cases since November, as of Oct 5:
- 431 in San Diego County
- 70 in Santa Cruz County
- 12 in Los Angeles County
Some Obstacles—Changing behaviors and deeply engrained perceptions
Next Steps

- Continue collaboration with California Department of Public Health... *(Hey, they have all the money)*

- Finalize development of policies and procedures for pharmacy reimbursement of medical services associated with providing onsite vaccinations *(Assessment of need for the vaccine, extended consultation, administration costs)*

- Use claims data, matched with public health data, to identify outlier areas, assess the factors causing the issues, take action to mitigate unmet needs and disparities.
Questions-

[Disclaimer—Ask anything but I may not have answers]

WHY DO PEOPLE POINT TO THEIR WRIST WHEN ASKING FOR THE TIME, BUT DON'T POINT TO THEIR BUM WHEN THEY ASK WHERE THE BATHROOM IS?