

# NVAC Adult Immunization Working Group Recommendations

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National Vaccine Advisory Committee



# NVAC Adult Immunization Working Group Mission Statement

- To assess public health adult immunization activities in HHS programs, identify gaps, and recommend improvements, particularly in program implementation, coordination, evaluation, and collaboration across agencies, that will lead to improved vaccination uptake in adults in these programs.



# Work to Date

- Nine meetings in person or by conference call since May, 2008
- Reviewed adult immunization programs in HHS agencies:
  - CDC
  - Indian Health Service
  - HRSA
  - CMS-Medicaid, Medicare
  - AHRQ
- Also reviewed Dept of Veterans Affairs' and Dept of Defense adult immunization programs



# Recommendations' Format

- Once approved by the NVAC, the final recommendations will be formally transmitted to the Assistant Secretary for Health, who will determine implementation options and next steps.
- For simplicity, the recommendations are worded as if from NVAC to the relevant agency or Department.



# Recommendations Report – Contents

- **Overview**
  - Vaccine coverage in adult target groups
  - Disease burden
  - Role of funding in adult immunization
- **Recommendations**
  - Nine categories



# Recommendations: Category 1

- **Assess Adult Immunization Coverage**
  - Increased resources for national and state-based adult immunization data collection and dissemination, ... include adequate sample sizes ... permitting analyses by region, demographic, and behavioral characteristics ...
  - CMS [should] regularly assess immunization uptake for adults in the Medicare and Medicaid programs through claims and survey data ...
  - HHS agencies (e.g., AHRQ, CDC, HRSA) and the Depts of Defense and Veterans Affairs [should] review how to best ... collect data regularly about vaccination rates and practices for adults cared for within their ... settings to meet or exceed the Healthy People... adult immunization objectives:



# Recommendations: Category 2

- **Support Health Services Research to answer key adult immunization related questions**
  - HHS agencies [should] review how to ... conduct health services research with the goal of increasing adult immunization rates. Such research should include evaluation of barriers to immunization, particularly for racial and ethnic minority groups and health care personnel.
  - The research] would also include an assessment of
    1. why evidence-based strategies to raise adult immunization coverage have not been more widely adopted, and
    2. the appropriate role of policy initiatives, including mandatory vaccination for health care personnel ...
  - Agencies should examine settings under their purview: e.g. CDC – state and local health departments, HRSA – community health centers. Information should be solicited using innovative techniques, such as new social media and the internet.



# Recommendations: Category 3

- **Include Adult Immunization in State, ... City Public Health Grantees, other Federal Clinic Sites**
  - **CDC and HRSA [should]**
    - **revise their funding guidance ... to require adult immunization activities.**
    - **require all funded entities... they oversee to adopt and implement ACIP recommendations for routine adult immunization.**
    - **devote resources for inclusion of... adults into Immunization Information Systems (IIS), and in electronic health records.**
    - **work with the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology to establish electronic medical record systems' certification include interfaces with IIS.**
    - **support a full time adult immunization coordinator at each CDC immunization grantee site.**
  - **The Dept of Veterans Affairs Health Care System (VHA) [should] enhance its electronic medical records system to provide easy access to a comprehensive IIS functionality for all vaccines delivered to patients in the VHA system. This effort would include compatibility and sharing of information with relevant state IIS.**



# Recommendations: Category 4

- **Update Federal Guidance on Adult Immunization**
  - NVAC recommends NVPO revise the guidance from 2000 on use of alternative vaccination sites. New areas of emphasis will include use of IIS for recordkeeping. Travel medicine clinics will be included as alternative sites for routine adult immunization.



# Recommendations: Category 5

- **Support Quality Assessment and Quality Improvement of Adult and Health Care Worker Immunization Service Delivery**
  - HHS agencies and the VA Health Care System review approaches to implement:
    - Embarking on system-wide quality improvement initiatives to meet or exceed the Healthy People ...goals ... [including]
      - » promulgating clinical guidance for all ACIP-recommended vaccines for adults as a standard of practice in all appropriate settings...;
      - » recommending uniform and routine use of evidence-based strategies to raise vaccination rates...



# Recommendations: Category 6

- **Identify Meaningful Incentives**

- CMS [should] require as a condition of participation for institutions receiving Medicare payments ... to offer annual influenza vaccination to all health care personnel, report annual vaccination rates, and undertake vigorous promotional campaigns to increase vaccine acceptance...
- CMS [should] work with groups that develop performance measures to enhance its Physician Quality Reporting Improvement measures, such as adding measures for
  - pneumococcal and hepatitis B vaccination for end state renal disease patients,
  - Zoster vaccination for all Medicare-eligible persons 60 years and older ... ,
  - Tetanus-diphtheria toxoids at ten year intervals for all Medicare patients, including administration of a single Tdap for those <65 years, and Td for those  $\geq 65$  years.



# Recommendations: Category 7

- **Secure Adequate Federal Funding of Adult Immunization**
  - CMS [should] survey Medicaid programs to
    - Assess if all ACIP-recommended vaccines for adults are included in each state Medicaid Program's formulary of covered vaccines;
    - Inform future work of the NVAC Financing Working Group regarding reimbursement for vaccine and vaccine administration.
  - NVAC recommends all preventive vaccines be included in Medicare part B.



# Recommendations: Category 8

- **Outreach to Promote Adult Immunization**
  - All [relevant] HHS agencies [should] ...implement appropriate and regular evaluation of their provider and public outreach campaigns and tools.
  - Appropriate offices and agencies in [HHS should] develop a comprehensive website for adult immunization, including disease burden information, vaccination coverage data, evidence-based strategies to improve adult vaccination rates in a variety of settings, promotional materials ...



# Recommendations: Category 9

- **Improve Vaccine Safety Monitoring for Adults**
  - CDC and FDA [should] review and implement approaches to improving health care providers' [who primarily see adult patients] awareness of, and reporting to, the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) ...
  - HRSA [should] review and implement approaches for improving the awareness of, and information to, health care providers who primarily see adult patients about the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program.



# Next Steps

- Discuss and refine recommendations with the Committee
- Vote on recommendations
- Discussion of adult immunization financing issues, and how to partner with NVAC Financing Working Group



# NVAC Vote

## On Adult Immunization Recommendations





**National Vaccine Program Office**  
**National Vaccine Advisory Committee**  
June 2 – 3, 2009

