

The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)

- The AAFP represents over 100,000 members, including physicians, residents and students.
- Family physicians care for patients from “cradle to grave” including children, adolescents, and young adults.
- The AAFP mission is to “improve the health of patients, families, and communities...”

The AAFP and Immunizations

- The AAFP's Strategic Plan names immunizations as a key component of Objective 4: The Health of the Public.
- Immunizations are part of the core curriculum for medical education for family physicians.
- The re-certification process for family physicians requires ongoing CME. Several of these modules include training in childhood, adolescent, and adult immunizations.

AAFP and Immunizations, cont.

- The AAFP works collaboratively with the CDC in developing immunization recommendations for all age groups.
- The AAFP promotes these recommendations via multiple venues including online newsletters, journals, and the AAFP website.

The AAFP and HPV

- The AAFP has a cooperative agreement with the CDC to increase adolescent immunization rate, specifically the HPV vaccine. This involves an Office Champions project with 20 family practices.
- The AAFP has a similar agreement (Office Champions project with 20 practices) with an external partner that is focusing on both childhood and adolescent immunizations.

Barriers to HPV uptake

- Three doses over six months do not fit into the normal well child schedule and require extra appointments at the doctor's office.
- The HPV vaccine is not mandatory which makes it easier for parents to opt out.
- There is no cultural norm or expectation in favor of the HPV vaccine.

Ideas to improve HPV uptake

- Create a pre-teen vaccine expectation similar to the pre-KG group of vaccines. Most parents know that some vaccines are needed before KG.
- Make an expectation that the Tdap, meningococcal, and HPV vaccines are expected before age 13.
- This might counteract the hesitancy parents have about vaccinating children at age 11 or 12 before they are sexually active.

Ideas (2)

- Allow other venues for administering HPV vaccine including schools (as done in the UK) and pharmacies.
- While the AAFP prefers that vaccines be given in the medical home, they recognize that might not always happen.
- However, they do feel strongly that the vaccine administrator needs to submit the data to the medical home and the local vaccine registry.

Ideas (3)

- Reframe the HPV vaccine as a “vaccine against cancer.”
- Expand media coverage for HPV for boys and men. This would make the recommendation gender neutral and possibly easier to sell.
- Review the Adolescent Working Group recommendations that were approved in June 2008. They are an excellent resource.

Issues on HPV uptake

- As of October 2009, all 50 states allow pharmacists to administer some vaccinations.
- According to data from APhA, as of June 2012, 43 states or territories have granted authority to pharmacists to administer the HPV vaccine, with most having specific age limitations.
(<http://www.pharmacist.com/node/29316>)

Issues (2)

- However, in New York State, certified pharmacists are only allowed to administer influenza, pneumococcal, and herpes zoster vaccinations and only to adults. They do have to report vaccinations for 18 year old patients to the state registry.
- NY currently only has a required vaccine registry for children although it will accept adult information.

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