

Focusing on Adult Immunizations

Background

The Delhi Family Health Team consists of 7 physicians, 2 Nurse Practitioners and are supported by Allied Health professional, nurses and clerical staff all providing primary health care to 10,044 patients.

The DFHT has a strong initiative focused on educating adults regarding the benefits of immunizations.

Our poster demonstration will help other teams acquire knowledge of strategies regarding adult immunizations.

1. Describe the importance and impact of adult immunizations for prevention and management of chronic illness.
2. Describe process to measure rates of standard of care adult immunizations.
3. Identify the key roles that physicians and IHP's play in the process from start to finish.

Methods

Auto-generated reminders in the EMR - flagged by age, chronic disease

Standard screening – age, EMR,

chronic disease, year round focus not just certain times of the year

Educational Programs – yearly open house which increases community awareness and participation, information boards, information on the website, posters, brochures and recommended vaccination lists in waiting area and examination rooms.

Recall Process – search for patients who are not up-to-date on adult immunizations. Patients are then contacted by reception or nurses to set up an appointment.

Approach Method – very important for physicians and IHP's to discuss with the patients why they recommend the vaccine and its benefits

Nursing Clinics – giving the patient access to receive the immunization in scheduled clinics day or evening without seeing the physician.

References

Non-influenza Vaccination Coverage Among Adults — United States, 2012
Morbidity and Mortality Weekly February 7, 2014 / 63(05);95-102

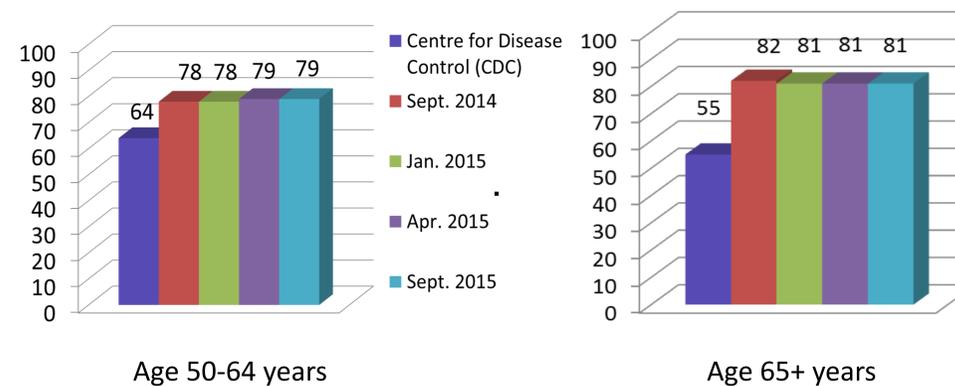
Results

Significant improvements attributed to standardization of data entry, implementation of focusing on educating adults just as children regarding the benefits of immunizations and increasing patient access, minimizing barriers and reducing missed opportunities.

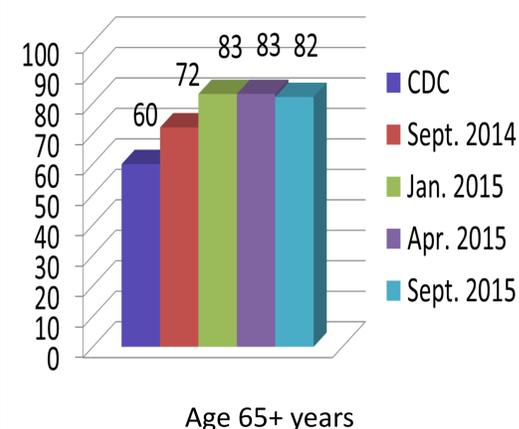
Quarterly Physician Report

Individual physician electronic medical record reports for standard of care vaccinations.

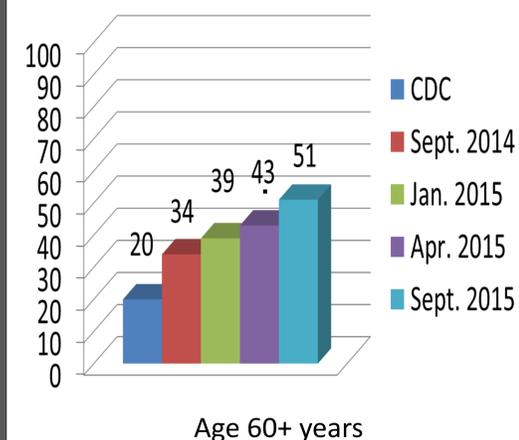
Tetanus



Pneumococcal



Shingles



Conclusions

Focus on adult immunization in regular patient visit just as children immunizations are.

The Delhi Family Health Team has used this model for managing other chronic diseases to identify and recall patients and have seen significant improvements.

Limitations

- Most adult immunizations are not funded by the Ministry and many patients do not have private insurance.
- Adult immunizations are quite expensive.
- Stigma attached to immunizations: if ministry not funding it they must not be that important.
- Pharmacy not always well stocked so patients must return to clinic at a later time.
- Getting patients to return to the clinic for just an injection.

Next Steps

- Continue with the quarterly queries to keep up motivation in the clinic.
 - Using portals to run patient education campaigns regarding adult immunizations.

Acknowledgements

- Delhi Family Health Team physicians, IHPs, nursing and clerical staff
- We would like to acknowledge the support of the Medical Group Key Account Manager, Beth Eastland who, through the Merck Care Elements™ approach, has helped our Family Health Team identify how to determine our adult immunization rates and identify processes to enhance our approach to adult immunization.