



# VACCINATING YOUR ADULT PATIENTS

**Adults** in the United States risk hospitalization, disability, and, in some cases, death from vaccine-preventable diseases and their complications every year, yet overall vaccination rates remain low.<sup>1,2</sup> When someone is unvaccinated, they not only leave themselves vulnerable to diseases, but can also spread them to others around them.<sup>3</sup>

Some vaccines are even specifically recommended for adults based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Getting your patients vaccinated may help reduce their risk of contracting vaccine-preventable diseases, such as influenza.



# Have you considered using Health Information Technology (HIT) to **Identify**, **Engage**, and **Activate** vaccine-eligible **adults**?





## 1 | BEFORE VISIT



### Technology Considerations Before the ADULT Patient Visit

Send patients information about needed vaccines ahead of their visit so that they are more likely to get vaccinated.<sup>4</sup>

Raise awareness of vaccine-preventable diseases and the reasons for vaccination **before a patient is in the office.**

#### Have you considered using your HIT platform to—

- Identify eligible adult patients** needing vaccines through **patient list reports**?<sup>5</sup>
- Engage** the patient with vaccine **outreach** and **education** through electronic communication (eg, patient portal, e-mail, text, etc)?<sup>5</sup>
- Allow adult** patients to schedule a missing vaccine visit by **adding vaccination-only appointment scheduling** to patient portals?<sup>5</sup>
- Determine** vaccine opportunities in your patient population based on automated precharting features?<sup>6</sup>

## 2 & 3 | DURING & AFTER



### Technology Considerations During and After the ADULT Patient Visit

Increase workflow and time efficiencies when standard-of-care practices are incorporated into the electronic health record (EHR).<sup>7</sup>

Incorporate vaccines into routine health and wellness screening of patients, **while the patient is in the office and before the patient leaves the office.**

#### Have you considered using your HIT platform to—

- Add adult** vaccines to **wellness and disease templates** used in your **EHR**?<sup>6</sup>
  - **Adult annual wellness exam**
  - **Yearly OB/GYN exam**
- Add** future vaccine **alerts/reminders** to the patient portal so patients remain **engaged** on their future preventive vaccination opportunities as they age?<sup>5</sup>
- Schedule** subsequent vaccine visits for second doses or multiple-dosed vaccines (as appropriate) before the patient leaves the office?
- Incorporate** vaccine **alert/reminders** for **adult** patients based age and relevant medical history (eg, diabetes).<sup>5</sup>



## 4 | RATE MONITORING & BENCHMARKS



### Technology Considerations for Health Care Team Education/ADULT Vaccine Rate Monitoring & Benchmarks

Avoid missed opportunities in all settings where vaccines are given with the use of digital tools.<sup>8</sup>

Raise awareness and engage the health care team on updates to the CDC's adult vaccine schedule.

**Health care professionals** are the most trusted source of health information for adults.<sup>8</sup> Research shows that most adults believe vaccines are important and that a recommendation from their health care professional is the strongest predictor of getting vaccinated.<sup>9</sup> The CDC has several resources for health care professionals to help improve knowledge around adult vaccination and digital tools to help reduce the number of missed vaccination opportunities.<sup>9</sup>

#### Have you considered using digital platforms, such as—

- Using social media** on vaccines to raise awareness?<sup>5</sup>
- Creating Web page banners** to your Web site on vaccine opportunities for **adults**?<sup>5</sup>
- Sending vaccination articles** through **outreach** channels to raise awareness and activate patients to schedule an office visit for vaccination?<sup>5</sup>

**Health systems** are often surprised by the gaps in care that exist for adult vaccination in their patient populations.<sup>8</sup>



#### Monitor adult vaccines and the health of your population using existing technology.

#### Have you considered using your HIT platform to—

- Create dashboards** that monitor the percent of your **adult** patients that have been vaccinated vs those that are still eligible to receive a certain vaccine?
  - Include age-based recommendations.
  - Monitor patients based on **relevant medical history (eg, diabetes)**.
  - Track health trends in each **provider's** patient population.
- Establish benchmarks** or goals for vaccination (eg, Healthy People 2020, HEDIS, provider metrics, etc)?<sup>6</sup>

#### References:

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