

VACCINATING YOUR PEDIATRIC PATIENTS

Health Information Technology (HIT) can be used in various ways to improve pediatric vaccination rates.

Have you considered **some of the ways HIT** can address childhood vaccines?

OUTREACH

Vaccination rates increase when reminders (or reminder notices) are sent to parents whose children are due for or have missed their medical visit and routine vaccinations.^{1,2}

- Outreach through electronic communication (eg, e-mail, text, patient portal, etc) to alert parents.^{3,4}
- Such information should include education on the vaccine and the importance of routine developmental MILESTONE visits at ages 2, 4, 6, 9, and 12 months and again between 4 and 6 years.^{1,5}



HIT Considerations for Pediatric Vaccines

DURING THE VISIT

Regardless of their child's true vaccination status, many parents believe their child is fully vaccinated.⁶

- Identify vaccination opportunities for your pediatric patients at each routine visit by using reminders, pre-charting features, and examining the vaccination schedule.⁷
- Incorporate vaccine recommendations into wellness visits so that parents hear consistent language on why their child needs a particular vaccine.
- Remember that encouragement and reminders may result in higher vaccination rates.⁶



MONITOR

Health systems are often surprised by the gaps that exist for pediatric vaccination in their patient population.⁶

- Evaluate how your office is doing on childhood routine visits, including children that have missed visits or needed services like vaccines.⁶
- Monitor childhood vaccination rates at ages 2, 4, 6, 9, and 12 months and again between 4 and 6 years.^{1,5}
- Share vaccination rate results across your care team to encourage action on missed opportunities.



AFTER-VISIT ENGAGEMENT

Reminder tools help to increase vaccination rates and serve to heighten staff awareness for the continuing need to monitor their patients' vaccination status.⁶

- Use AFTER-VISIT resources, such as patient portals and state vaccination reminder tools, to engage parents for their child's future routine visits.⁷
- Highlight which future vaccines are needed, including multi-dose vaccine regimens, to encourage series completion.⁷



REDUCING MISSED OPPORTUNITIES TO VACCINATE



A missed opportunity is a health care encounter in which a person is due to receive a vaccine but is not vaccinated.⁶ Missed opportunities occur for several reasons, including parental concerns about adverse events and/or outright objection. Providers may be unaware that a child is due for a vaccine,⁶ or a clinic may have a policy of not vaccinating at other visits except for the well-child care visits.⁶

Strategies designed to prevent missed opportunities are varied, and often include technology resources.⁶ Have you considered some of the HIT strategies available for your practice to improve pediatric vaccination rates?⁶

Checklist for identifying possible gaps in pediatric vaccination rates Select YES if you have implemented and NO if you still have a possible gap	YES	NO
Parents can make vaccination appointments for their children for the same day (nurse visits) ⁸		
Parents can proactively schedule vaccine visit by e-mail or through the patient portal ⁹		
Pre-visit vaccination reminders are sent to the parent electronically along with an explanation of why the vaccine is recommended ¹⁰		
Electronic communication is used to educate parents on vaccine-preventable diseases (e-mail, text, videos) ^{3,9}		
EHR features identify all vaccine gaps in care at routine developmental milestone visits (2, 4, 6, 9, 12 months) ^{5,10}		
EHR features identify all vaccine gaps in care at routine developmental milestone visits (4 - 6 years) ^{5,10}		
Recommendation language is embedded into vaccine reminders, providing a standard for each provider in a practice ¹⁰		
EHR features identify/activate a parent to complete any multi-dose vaccine regimens for their child ¹⁰		
During a telehealth visit, the parent is advised of future vaccine needs and scheduled for vaccine-only visit ¹¹		
Portal allows parents to view routine visits, including recommended vaccinations ⁹		
Pre-charting features proactively identify vaccinations and create orders for needed vaccines ⁷		
Providers are sent vaccination reports to monitor rates and completion of routine developmental milestone visits for their pediatric patients at ages 2, 4, 6, 9, and 12 months and again at 4 - 6 years ⁵		
State registry tools are actively used to address missed routine vaccination opportunities for initial vaccine regimens and series completion		
Missed appointment reports encourage parents that have missing routine appointments to reschedule vaccine visits for their child		

EHR=electronic health record.

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