

August 2016

Dear Healthcare Partner:

**We are preparing for vaccination season!** The Great Plains Quality Innovation Network (QIN) is working to improve vaccination rates of Medicare consumers in the region. Pharmacy plays a vital role in many of our quality improvement activities, including ensuring individuals receive the proper vaccinations. To assist with promotion and education, we are providing this toolkit for your Pharmacy.

**The need for vaccination is a life-long priority for all individuals.** Vaccines are recommended in all stages of life; helping communicate that message to individuals in our communities is important.

Unfortunately, influenza and pneumonia remain the 8th leading causes of death in the United States. Immunization rates among adults, particularly racial and ethnic minority populations and those with reduced access to healthcare resources, show significant opportunity for improvement. With your help, we can take big steps to reduce the number of individuals who are hospitalized or die from vaccine preventable diseases. Over the next few years, Great Plains QIN is committed to achieving the following:

- ✓ Immunization rates of 70 percent for influenza, 90 percent for cumulative pneumococcal and 30 percent for herpes zoster
- ✓ An absolute rate of 90 percent for adult immunization status assessment, appropriate immunization or referral
- ✓ A significant reduction in immunization disparities

Included in this electronic toolkit are informational brochures and outreach materials to education and display in your pharmacy, including:

- ✓ Medicare consumer outreach materials
- ✓ MLN billing and coverage fact sheets
- ✓ Vaccination promotion poster and CDC flyer samples
- ✓ Resource list for additional materials

**Let's change the story on vaccinations!** Data shows racial and ethnic minorities, as well as rural populations, are significantly less likely to receive immunizations. We aim to close the gap. Thanks for your continued efforts to improve immunization rates and for partnering with us to reach our vision of making health in our region the best in the nation.

We appreciate your feedback on this toolkit and whether it is of value. If you would like additional copies of these resources, please let us know. We are happy to print and send additional copies. Also, we have a wealth of resources and tools available for your use on [our Web site](http://greatplainsqin.org), including the materials included in this toolkit.

We invite all pharmacies and pharmacists to partner with us by joining our Learning and Action Network. With the growing number of Medicare consumers taking prescription medications and seeing multiple providers, medication safety in all healthcare settings is essential to care coordination and improving the health of consumers. For more information and to join, [visit our Web site](#).

For more information about this initiative or for additional information, contact the Great Plains QIN team member in your state (listed below).

**Kansas**

Vanessa Lamoreaux, BA

[Vanessa.lamoreaux@area-a.hcqis.org](mailto:Vanessa.lamoreaux@area-a.hcqis.org)

**Nebraska**

Tammy McNeil, RHIA, CPHIT, CPEHR

[tammy.mcneil@area-a.hcqis.org](mailto:tammy.mcneil@area-a.hcqis.org)

**North Dakota**

Nicole Medalen, MS, RN, APHN-BC

[Nicole.medalen@area-a.hcqis.org](mailto:Nicole.medalen@area-a.hcqis.org)

**South Dakota**

Holly Ahrends

[Holly.ahrends@area-a.hcqis.org](mailto:Holly.ahrends@area-a.hcqis.org)

Thanks again for your partnership,

The Great Plains Quality Innovation Network Team