

Dear Physician Office Partner:

It's vaccination season!

The Great Plains Quality Innovation Network is working to improve vaccination rates among Medicare consumers. To assist with promotion and education, we are providing this toolkit for your clinic.

The need for vaccination does not end; it should be a life-long priority. We know that vaccines are recommended in all stages of life; helping communicate that message to your patients is important. Unfortunately influenza and pneumonia remain the 8th leading causes of death in the United States. And, immunization rates among adults, particularly racial/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 four years, Great Plains QIN will work to achieve:

- ✓ 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

In this packet is a screening tool for these three vaccines and outreach materials for display in your facility, including:

- ✓ Screening tool for influenza, pneumococcal and herpes zoster vaccines
- ✓ Medicare consumer outreach materials (a customizable letter)
- ✓ 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 whether or not this toolkit is valuable for your clinic. Also, if you would like additional copies of these resources, please let us know. We are happy to print and send additional copies to meet your needs. Also, on the Great Plains QIN website www.greatplainsqin.org, we have a wealth of resources and tools available for your use, including the materials included in this toolkit.

For more information about this initiative or for additional information, contact: Tammy McNeil, RHIA, CPHIT, CPEHR – Regional Task Lead; Quality Improvement Advisor at 402/476-1399; Ext. 504 or tammy.mcneil@area-a.hcqis.org.

Thanks again for your partnership,

