

Date: September 2, 2009
From: Suzanne M. Kirschbaum RN CNN *smb*
Director, Quality Improvement
To: Facility Administrators, Nurse Managers
Regarding: Immunization Materials and Data Request

Action List

- Distribute the education material to patients and staff.
- Review the Pre-Season / Pre-Intervention Vaccination Record and place “checks” in the appropriate responses. – Keep this list for your internal quality efforts – *do not return the patient list to the Network office.*
- Add up the response totals and re-write the numbers on the “Return Fax Part 1” – **Send to the Network office via FAX by Sept. 30th.**
- Complete “Return Fax Part 2” by selecting the appropriate responses – **Send to the Network office via FAX by Sept. 30th.**

Network 4 Fax #:
(412) 325-1811

Hemodialysis patients are at risk for infection because the process requires invasive vascular access for prolonged periods. The chronic outpatient setting creates an environment where multiple patients receive dialysis concurrently and repeated opportunities for person-to-person transmission of infectious agents, directly or indirectly via contaminated devices, equipment and supplies, environmental surfaces or the hands of health care workers.

Novel influenza A (H1N1) is a new flu virus of swine origin that first caused illness in Mexico and the United States in March and April, 2009. On June 11, 2009, the World Health Organization (WHO) signaled that a global pandemic of novel H1N1 was underway by raising the worldwide pandemic alert level to Phase 6. A novel H1N1 vaccine is currently in production and may be ready for the public in the fall 2009.

What’s Our Goal?

The goal for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ (CMS) Healthy People 2010 Initiative is that 90% of adults will be immunized against pneumococcal disease and receive an annual Influenza vaccine. The new Conditions for Coverage require promotion of an immunization program for Hepatitis B, Pneumococcal and Influenza vaccines.

How Can You Help?

As a health care professional, you play an important role in helping your patients and staff understand the importance of disease prevention through immunizations. Your advocacy is one of the most important factors in increasing immunization rates. Encourage your patients to stay up-to-date on recommended vaccines, including adult immunizations such as an annual influenza vaccination, a pneumococcal vaccination and the hepatitis B vaccination. Information regarding the H1N1 vaccination program was distributed via fax from our office this week. Check our website for more details on the H1N1 vaccine and for the materials provided in this packet.

Thank you for supporting the efforts to increase awareness and to promote utilization of vaccines that can prevent infectious disease and save lives.

What's In This Packet?

The Network has provided each facility with a patient roster, "**Pre-Season / Pre-Intervention Vaccination Record**". We are asking that you use this roster (or any other facility reports) to provide the Network the information requested on the forms, "**Return Fax Part 1 and Part 2**". **Only these forms need to be returned to the Network office by September 30, 2009.** The vaccination record form can be utilized for internal facility tracking and quality improvement.

Also enclosed are educational materials for your unit, staff and patients:

- *For Staff* -- Pneumococcal Polysaccharide (PPV) Vaccination Pocket Guide (laminated placard)
- *For Staff* -- 2009-2010 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Information Guide (laminated placard)
- *For Staff* -- Vaccination Toolkit: Developed by the FORUM of ESRD Networks' Medical Advisory Council (MAC). The complete toolkit can be found on the Forum of ESRD Networks' Website [<http://esrdnetworks.org/mac-toolkits>]
- *For Staff* -- "I work in a Dialysis Facility...Do I need the Hepatitis B Vaccine?" pamphlet
- *For Staff* -- "Influenza: Protect Yourself and Your Patients" pamphlet
- *For Staff and Patients* -- CDC says "Take 3 Steps to Fight the Flu. These actions will protect against the new H1N1 too!" brochure
- *For Staff and Patients* -- "Cover you Cough...Clean your Hands" flyer from the CDC
- *For Patients* -- "Vaccination Facts" pamphlet
- *For Patients* -- "Hepatitis B: Know the facts and protect yourself. Hepatitis B is Preventable" brochure
- *For Patients* -- "Why Do I Need the Influenza Shot?" brochure
- *For Unit* -- "Get The Flu Shot NOT The Flu" placard (Quality Insights of Pennsylvania)
- *For Unit* -- "You know you should be getting the flu shot but what about the pneumonia vaccine?" poster (for Pennsylvania units only, provided by the Quality Insights of Pennsylvania)
- *For Unit* -- Pneumonia Q&A: "A pneumonia vaccination is a good step to Take Good Care!" (for Delaware units only, provided by the Quality Insights of Delaware)
- *For Unit* -- Flu Shot Q&A: "Taking Good Care is worth a shot...a yearly flu shot. (for Delaware units only, provided by the Quality Insights of Delaware)

Each facility was provided with a limited supply of brochures. You may supplement your packet by downloading from the Network 4 website at <http://www.esrdnetwork4.org>.

Should you have questions or need any additional information, please call me at the Network office: 412-325-2250.

/enclosures