

National Vaccine Advisory Committee

Health Care Personnel Influenza Vaccination Subgroup

REVISIONS:

Strategies to Achieve the Healthy People 2020
Annual Goal of 90% Influenza Vaccination Coverage
for Health Care Personnel

Presented by Dr. Christine Nevin-Woods

08 February 2012

Recommendation 1:

NVAC recommends that Health Care Employers (HCE) and facilities establish comprehensive influenza infection prevention programs **which include education of HCP as a key component. Comprehensive influenza infection prevention plans are recommended ~~as recommended~~** by the CDC as an essential step for all HCE and facilities to achieve the Healthy People 2020 influenza vaccine coverage goal.

NVAC recommends that the Assistant Secretary for Health (ASH) strongly urge all HCE and facilities to adopt these recommendations.

Recommendation 2:

NVAC recommends that HCE and facilities integrate influenza vaccination programs into their existing infection prevention programs or occupational health programs.

NVAC also recommends that the ASH assure that this recommendation is implemented in HHS facilities and services (including the Public Health Service, HHS staff and Federally Qualified Health Centers) and strongly urges all HCE and facilities to do the same.

Recommendation 3:

NVAC recommends that the ASH encourage CDC and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to continue efforts to standardize the methodology used to measure HCP influenza vaccination rates across settings. ~~linking vaccine coverage levels and quality improvement activities.~~

~~The ASH should also work with CMS to implement incentives, penalties, or requirements that facilitate adoption of this recommendation.~~

Recommendation 4:

For those HCE and facilities that have implemented Recommendations 1, 2 and 3 above and **still** have not consistently achieved the Healthy People 2020 goal for influenza vaccination coverage of HCP in an efficient and timely manner, NVAC recommends that HCE strongly consider an employer requirement for influenza immunization. **In addition to medical exemptions, HCE may consider other exemptions in their requirement policies.**

NVAC also recommends that the ASH assure that this recommendation is implemented in HHS facilities and services (including the Public Health Service, HHS staff who are HCP and Federally Qualified Health Centers) and urge all other HCE and facilities to do the same.

Recommendation 5:

NVAC recommends that the ASH encourage ongoing efforts to develop new and improved influenza vaccines and vaccine technologies including support for research, development, and licensure of influenza vaccines with improved effectiveness and duration of immunity, as well as steps that improve the immunogenicity and rapid production of existing influenza vaccines.

Suggested Revisions to the Report

Addition to Executive Summary of draft report

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In addition, vaccination of all Health Care Personnel (HCP) is a particular focus of recommendations by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other health care and public health agencies and professional organizations. HCP who are committed to promoting the welfare of patients and the health of the public, and to safeguarding their own and their colleagues' well-being, have an ethical responsibility to take appropriate measures including vaccination, to prevent the spread of influenza infections in healthcare settings. However, in spite of these recommendations, influenza immunization rates for HCP in the United States remain below the Healthy People 2020 annual goal of 90% influenza vaccine coverage of HCP.