

Immunization Practice Standards

National Vaccine Advisory Committee: Standards for Child and Adolescent Immunization Practices

1. Availability of vaccines

2. Vaccination services are readily available.
3. Vaccinations are coordinated with other health care services and provided in a medical home when possible.
4. Barriers to vaccination are identified and minimized.
5. Patient costs are minimized.

Assessment of vaccination status

1. Health care professionals review the vaccination and health status of patients at every encounter to determine which vaccines are indicated.
2. Health care professionals assess for and follow only medically accepted contraindications.

Effective communication about vaccine benefits and risks

1. Parents/guardians and patients are educated about the benefits and risks of vaccination in a culturally appropriate manner and in easy-to-understand language.

Proper storage and administration of vaccines and documentation of vaccinations

1. Health care professionals follow appropriate procedures for vaccine storage and handling.
2. Up-to-date, written vaccination protocols are accessible at all locations where vaccines are administered.
3. Persons who administer vaccines and staff who manage or support vaccine administration are knowledgeable and receive on-going education.
4. Health care professionals simultaneously administer as many indicated vaccine doses as possible.
5. Vaccination records for patients are accurate, complete, and easily accessible.
6. Health care professionals report adverse events following vaccination promptly and accurately to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) and are aware of a separate program, the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP).
7. All personnel who have contact with patients are appropriately vaccinated.

Implementation of strategies to improve vaccination coverage

1. Systems are used to remind parents/guardians, patients, and health care professionals when vaccination are due and to recall those who are overdue.
2. Office- or clinic-based patient record reviews and vaccination coverage assessments are performed annually.
3. Health care professionals practice community-based approaches

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