



Contact:

Tracy Danos - 619-515-2858 (Community Health Improvement Partners)

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PARTNERS (CHIP)
URGES Physicians to Prepare for Flu Season

SAN DIEGO (August 9, 2002)

Request for Information:

CHIP *Immunize San Diego* – an adult immunization collaborative – is requesting your help. This effort, chaired by Dr. Bud Beck and coordinated by Tracy Danos, is seeking information to help work collaboratively with physicians to improve adult immunization rates.

Fax your responses to this one page questionnaire to CHIP at 619-544-0888.

1. Of my _____ (number) of patients, _____ (number) are adult patients ≥ 18 years old and _____ (number) are > 65 years old.

2. How many of your high risk patients:
a. receive a flu shot **at your office**? _____ (number)
b. receive a flu shot **outside your office**? _____ (number)

3. I use to the following strategies to vaccinate all eligible patients? Check all that apply

	Yes	No
a. Post card reminders to patients for flu shots	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Phone call reminders to patients for flu shots	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Practice produced list of patients who need flu shots	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. List of eligible patients produced by an outside source	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Standing orders of non-physician staff to immunize	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Walk-in flu shots without appointment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Scheduled flu shot clinics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Educational materials posted in office	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. The biggest barrier to providing influenza vaccine in my office is...

5. Which of the following best describes your practice group? (Please check one)

- Solo Small group (<5 physicians)
- Medium group (5 to 15 physicians) Large group (>15 physicians)

Identify your High Risk Patients

Healthcare providers are encouraged to identify their patients who are eligible for flu vaccination. The CDC recommends that vaccination of the following groups should begin in **October**:

Persons aged 65 years old or older

Children 6 – 23 months

Adults and children with a chronic health condition, i.e. heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease, asthma, cancer, and HIV/AIDS

Women more than 3 months pregnant during flu season

Household contact or care-giver of someone at high risk

Healthcare workers

Household contact or care-giver of a child under 2 years old

Children *6 months – 8 years old* getting the very first flu shot need a booster shot one month after the first dose of vaccine

Vaccine Supply

The CDC estimates of influenza vaccine production for the 2002 – 2003 season are very good, between 92 – 97 million doses. Healthcare providers, who have not ordered vaccine, are urged to check with manufacturers for the availability of vaccine as soon as possible.

- Aventis – Pasteur (1-800-822-2463) – the company's wait list remains open.
- Evans Vaccines available from Henry Schein and its GIV and Caligor divisions (1-800-722-4346, 1-800-521-7468, or 1-888-225-4467, respectively)
- Evans Vaccine has added two distributors. FFF Enterprises (1-800-843-7477 by phone, online at www.fluvaccine.net or by fax at 1800-418-4333). Bergen Brunswick has prefilled syringes available through two of its subsidiaries. Hospitals, home infusion pharmacies, and dialysis clinics should call ASD Specialty Healthcare at 1-800-746-6273. All others may contact Besse Medical Supply at 1-877-462-3773 or email to flu@besse.com.
- Wyeth Vaccines (1-800-358-7443) - the company is accepting names on a waiting list.

Pneumococcal and Td

Don't forget to vaccinate your patients against Pneumococcal and Td! Pneumococcal may be given year round and for most is only needed once in a lifetime. Td may be given to anyone 7 years or older. Review your patient's records and make sure they are up – to- date!

Resources

- The *San Diego County Immunization Initiative* (I3) has a website containing information for providers. Visit I3's website at www.immunization-sd.org.
- Healthcare providers may also check the *CHIP* website for immunization information at www.sdchip.org. The site is currently under revision, but will be available soon.
- New flyers on the timing of influenza vaccination for this season and myths concerning influenza vaccine are available on the *CDC influenza website* at <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/flu>. Healthcare providers looking for educational materials are encouraged to visit the site.
- The *CDC* has a **National Immunization Information Hotline**. Healthcare providers can learn more about vaccine preventable diseases by calling 1-800-232-2522 and 1-800-232-0233 (en Espanol), hours are Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 11:00pm (ET). Also, 1-800-243-7889 (TTY), hours are Monday – Friday, 10:00am – 10:00pm(ET).