Implementation of a Pharmacy-Based Immunization Program

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Identify the Need

- Healthy People 2020 goals
  - 70% annual influenza immunization rates for individuals 18 years of age and older
  - 90% annual influenza immunization rates for healthcare workers
  - Pneumococcal vaccine immunization rate goals
    - 90% coverage for those >65 years
    - 60% coverage for 18-64 year olds individuals with high risk conditions
Identify the Partners

- Patients
  - Elderly
  - High risk conditions
  - Contacts
  - Workplaces

- Other immunization providers
  - Physician offices
  - Public health clinics
  - Visiting nurses
Advantage of Pharmacies

- Accessibility
  - Hours
  - No appointment
  - Location

- Trust

- Identify those with indications based on medications
Pharmacist Immunization Scope

- Wisconsin Act 68 and Act 24 allow pharmacists to immunize
  - Any vaccine with ACIP recommendation for ages 6 years and older
  - Any vaccine with prescription, including age 0-5 years
Requirements

- Protocol not needed for immunization if:
  - Age 6 years and older
  - ACIP recommended vaccine

- Education

- Liability insurance
Education

- Course at least 12 hours (ACPE provider)
- Required course content
  - Vaccine storage
  - Administration technique
  - Record keeping
  - Protocols
  - Emergency procedures
Education

- For pharmacists who will provide immunization services to children younger than 6 years, education must include this age group.
Education Requirement

- Maintain proof of completion
  - Transcript is your proof of completion
  - Not required to submit to any regulatory authority
  - Employer policies vary

- No CE maintenance requirement
Professional Liability

- Consider liability issues
- Liability insurance that covers medication or vaccine administration or the scope of practice
- Must carry liability insurance that covers the pharmacist $1 million per occurrence and $2 million per year minimum
Protocol

- No longer needed for routine immunization
- Still need a protocol to administer emergency medications
  - Epinephrine
  - Diphenhydramine injection
Design Space

- Semi-private area
- Open floor space
- Chair for patient
- Table for supplies
- Vaccine storage accessible
  - Assure appropriate storage temperatures and adequate space

- Workflow
- Observation after immunization
- Space for supply storage
Policies and Procedure

How-to details need not be in protocol
Examples of P/P that may be needed

- Screening
  - Patient eligibility
  - Process
- Vaccine ordering and storage

- Record keeping
  - Pharmacy records
  - Registry
  - Reporting to collaborating physician and PCP

- Reimbursement