

Using Standing Orders to Increase Immunization Rates

Standing orders authorizes nurses and pharmacists to administer vaccines to all persons meeting certain criteria, thus eliminating the need for individual physician's orders for each patient. Standing orders are the most consistently effective means for increasing vaccination rates. Standing orders can be used in inpatient and outpatient facilities, long-term care facilities, managed-care organizations, assisted living facilities, correctional facilities, pharmacies, workplaces, and home health-care agencies to vaccinate patient, client, resident and employee populations. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends standing orders for influenza, pneumococcal, hepatitis B, tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis-containing vaccines, when ever feasible.

Standing Orders Program Components

Successful standing orders program include the following:

- Procedures to identify eligible patients
- Procedures to provide information on the risks and benefits of vaccinations
- Proper record of refusals or contraindications
- Approved vaccine delivery protocol
- Quality assurance and documentation procedures

These orders should also specify that vaccines be administered by health-care professionals trained to:

- Screen patients for contraindications to vaccination
- Administer vaccines
- Monitor clients for adverse events, in accordance with state and local regulations

Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) are useful for risk/benefit counseling and are recommended and/or required. (See "Important VIS Facts", in the Talking to Families section). All involved personnel should be trained to report adverse outcomes to the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS).

Standing Orders Available from the Immunization Action Coalition

Vaccine	Adult	Child/ Teen	Vaccine	Adult	Child/ Teen
DTaP		X	Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)	X	X
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> Type B (HIB)		X	Medical Management of Vaccine Reactions/Emergencies	X *	X
Hepatitis A (hep A)	X	X	Meningococcal vaccines (MCV4 and MPSV4)	X	X
Hepatitis B (hep B)	X	X	Pneumococcal Conjugate (PCV7)		X
Human Papillomavirus (HPV4)	X	X	Pneumococcal Polysaccharide (PPV23)	X *	X
Inactivated Polio (IPV)		X	Td/Tdap	X	X
Influenza vaccines (TIV and LAIV)	X *	X	Varicella (Var)	X	X

*Copies of these standing orders are located in this, Adult Section of the AIM Kit

Copies of the others may be obtained from the Immunization Action Coalition at www.immunize.org

Adapted from: "Use of Standing Orders Programs to Increase Adult Vaccination Rates, Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices", MMWR March 24, 2000/ 49(RR01); 15-26.