



PQA Adult Immunization Task Force

PQA has recently launched a new quality measurement initiative, aimed at narrowing gaps in measurement and reporting for adult immunizations. The PQA Adult Immunization Task Force will convene regularly over the next 12- to 18-month period. The task force recently assembled in Arlington, VA on June 17th 2014 for its initial in-person meeting. The meeting received wide participation and consisted of a broad group of stakeholders including Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), Immunization Action Coalition (IAC), American Immunization Registry Association (AIRA), other national and state pharmacy associations, national pharmacy chains, independent pharmacists, academia, health plans, technology companies, and others.

Two co-chairs are leading this effort—Mitchel Rothholz, Chief Strategy Officer at the American Pharmacists Association, and Jeff Goad, Professor and Chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice at Chapman University School of Pharmacy. PQA's Director of Quality Strategies, Sam Stolpe, is the staff liaison for the task force.

The task force is focused on addressing two primary goals:

- *Goal 1:* The development of pharmacy-level measures for immunizations commonly administered by pharmacists, and/or other immunization measures as prioritized by the task force
- *Goal 2:* The development of recommendations and implementable pharmacy best practices for data capture of pharmacist-administered immunizations, which includes obtaining and sharing patients' vaccination information for pneumonia, flu,

shingles and other vaccines with the physician, the state registry, and the patient

Since the first in-person meeting in June, the task force has worked together to identify and address a variety of challenges within existing and proposed immunization reporting standards. Discussions have focused on developing best practice recommendations and identifying measure concept work areas that will be implementable within the pharmacy practice setting, and that are translatable to other health care settings. The group formulated several recommendations for methods that will allow for better data capture through utilization of registries and standardization of documentation. Key work areas for the task force have been prioritized, and are now the topics of the task force's ongoing telephonic efforts, including the following top three areas:

- Immunization registry measure—% of patients reported into registries
- Assess patients immunization status—% of patients who have their immunization status assessed and who either receive an immunization or are referred
- MTM Part D measure looking at annual CMR assessment, documentation of immunizations

The task force will continue meeting telephonically the fourth Tuesday of every month.