



# **PUBLIC HEALTH**

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Washington State's Initiative to  
Increase Pharmacist Access and Reporting  
to the Washington State  
Immunization Information System

# Outline

- Grant Background
- Pharmacy Outreach Interventions
- Results
- Next Steps
- Questions

# Grant Background

- Funded by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- 2-year Prevention and Public Health Fund Grant to improve adult immunization services
- Focus areas:
  - Employers/child care workers
  - Community and migrant health centers
  - Healthcare workers in clinic settings
  - Providers who service high-risk Hepatitis B communities
  - **Pharmacies and pharmacists**

# Partners

- Project Goal: To expand the role of pharmacies in providing adult vaccines to their community
- Washington State Pharmacy Association
- Scientific Technology Corporation

**WSPA**



*Jenny Arnold, PharmD, BCPS*

# Baseline Data

**159 Locations**

- routinely reported immunizations
- 1 chain pharmacy (157 locations)
- 2 independent pharmacies

**114,535  
Vaccine doses**

- were entered into IIS from Aug 2010 to July 2011

**10 Pharmacy  
entities**

- had information sharing agreements

# Survey

**400**  
Pharmacists

- were surveyed

**202**  
Pharmacists

- responded

**127**  
Respondents

- were certified to vaccinate

# Survey Findings

Of the **127** pharmacists certified to provide immunizations:

**62**  
(49%)

- were aware of the Washington State Immunization Information System (IIS)

**41**

- knew they could gain access to the registry

**40**

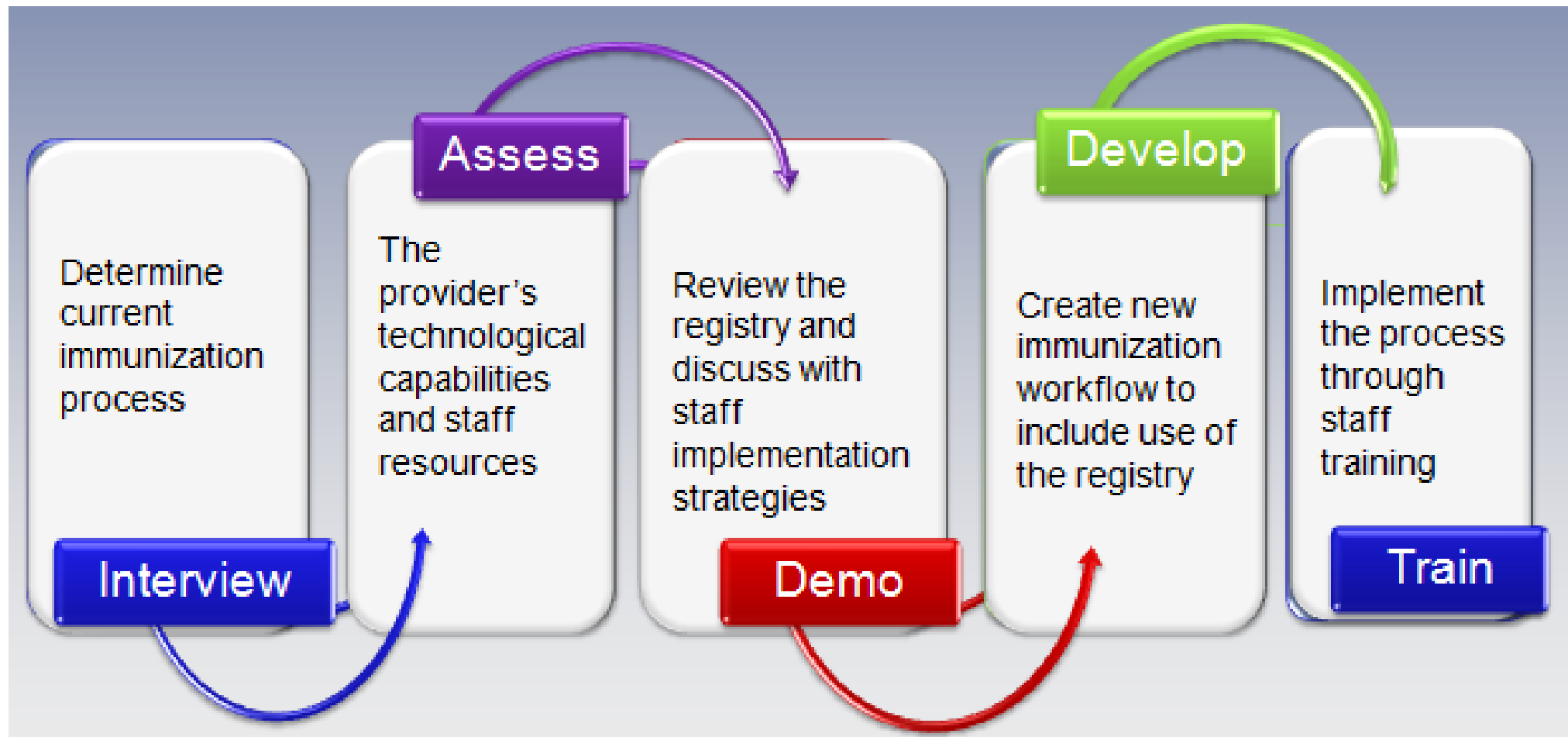
- knew the registry was for adults as well as children

# Intervention

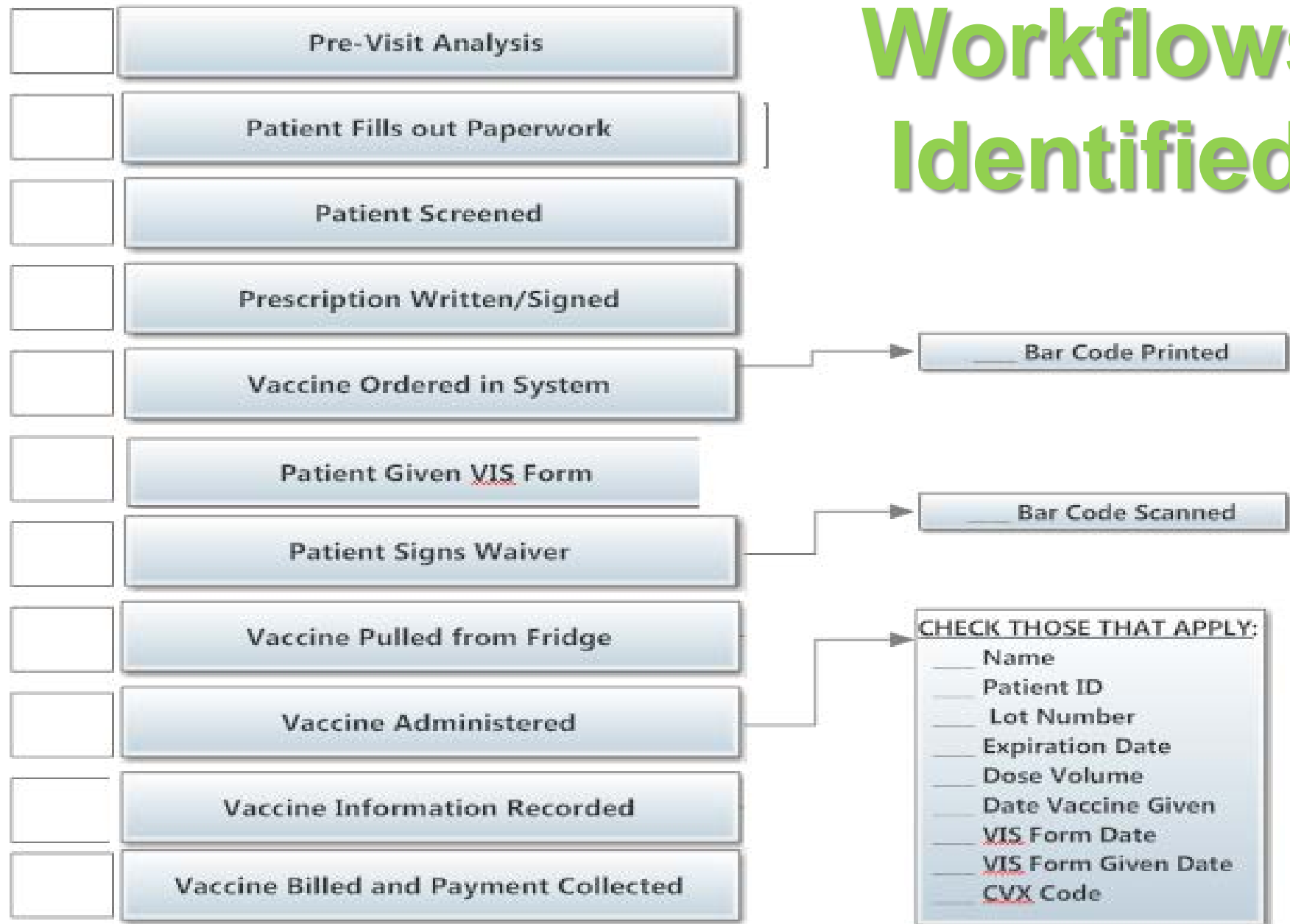
- Education and technical assistance
  - Met directly with chains and independents to encourage IIS use
  - Answered questions about the legality of inputting information into the IIS
  - Marketing and outreach to pharmacies
  - Provided pharmacy-specific training (for selected pilots)
  - Developed instructional videos on how to use the IIS



# “Best practice” formula for IIS use



# Workflows Identified



# Marketing Recommendations

The ability to offer  
higher quality  
immunization care



# Results



**Info  
Sharing  
Agreements**

**Users**

**Vaccine  
Data**

**438  
Locations**

- Routinely report immunizations
- (43% of pharmacies)

**465,819  
Vaccine  
doses**

- Entered into IIS
- (Four-fold increase)

**30  
Pharmacy  
entities**

- Have information sharing agreements
- (Three-fold increase)

# Increasing Registry Use by Pharmacies

**Vaccine doses entered into IIS per grant year**



## Key Findings

- Pharmacies are ready and willing to use the IIS in their day-to-day workflows when presented to them as a win-win
- Development of communication and training materials is important for this target market
- Some IIS enhancements will:
  - Help with resource sustainability
  - Allow pharmacies to access all best practice tools
  - Ensure data gets into the system in a timely fashion

## Next Steps

- Engage student pharmacists
  - A past model for initiating change, used to encourage pharmacists as immunizers
- Continue to explore innovative solutions
- Address interface issues such as duplicate patient IDs
- Full IRB Study
- Forecasting Tool
- System Changes

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# Questions



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