

## Reminder

### Immunizations – for Patients and Providers

This is the time of year when the risk for flu and pneumonia increase, so it is important for all of us to take the proper precautions to safeguard against these vaccine-preventable diseases. Ohio KePRO facilitates the Ohio Immunization Partners for Healthy Adults (OIPHA) to improve adult immunization rates. To help achieve this goal, OIPHA communicates strategies to healthcare providers and at-risk populations at a statewide level.

OIPHA's website ([www.ohiokepro.com/OIPHA](http://www.ohiokepro.com/OIPHA)) provides information, tools and resources to help improve the immunization services at your practice. These include up-to-date provider and patient resources, including patient handouts, Adult Immunization Coding Guide,

Adult Immunization Reimbursement Guide, and Immunizers' Question & Answer Guide to Medicare Coverage of Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccinations. The site is organized with a resources page (<http://www.ohiokepro.com/OIPHA/resources.aspx>) as well as a new billing resources page ([www.ohiokepro.com/OIPHA/billing.aspx](http://www.ohiokepro.com/OIPHA/billing.aspx)).

Make a visit to the OIPHA website the first step in improving your immunization services!



## HIT News



HHS.gov/Recovery  
Overview  
Plans & Reports  
Grants & Contracts  
Announcements

### Recovery Act HIT Updates

CMS has updated its website with a [new page](#) (with the latest updates related to health information technology as provided for in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

This information includes three main areas of focus:

- Medicare and Medicaid IT incentives and support for adoption
- Establishment of HIT standards and infrastructure
- HIT privacy and security

Currently available on this page are:

- A fact sheet with details about the incentive programs
- FAQs about HIT
- A June 16 press release about the process of defining "meaningful use" of HIT
- HIT privacy and security/HIPAA links
- Other relevant HHS/CMS links

### Seniors Use Web Tools to Manage Their Health

The results of a recent Kaiser Permanente survey show that seniors are using the Internet to help manage their health. More than 4,500 Medicare beneficiaries registered to use the organization's personal health record system were surveyed about their Internet habits, comfort level with computers, and health status.

Most survey respondents (87%) indicated that they are satisfied or very satisfied with the technology. The survey results also showed that respondents enjoy using the system to schedule appointments email physicians, and review test results, with online prescription refills as the most popular feature.

The results indicated that those who reported being in excellent health are significantly more engaged in their healthcare than those who reported being in poor health.

Source: Merrill M. Survey find seniors satisfied with using Internet to manage health. Healthcare IT News. July 14, 2009. Available at: <http://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/survey-finds-seniors-satisfied-using-internet-manage-health>. Accessed July 29, 2009.

## HIT News

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### Providers Could Use EHRs for Quality Reports

CMS is testing quality data from EHRs as part of the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) to evaluate where it is “practical and feasible” to be part of the 2010 reporting process. Providers would be able to report on 10 quality measures, including preventive services such as diabetes and high blood pressure control, and flu and pneumonia immunizations. More information about the PQRI program is available at [www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI).

## Educational Opportunities



### Upcoming Events

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Immunization Symposium: Reflections of Change  
Friday, September 25

Windows on the River in the Powerhouse-Nautica Bldg. 2000 Sycamore, Cleveland, OH  
Presented by Consortium for Healthy & Immunized Communities (CHIC) and Wright State Boonshoft Medical School in partnership with Cleveland Department of Public Health, Cuyahoga County Board of Health, and Ohio Department of Health.

Symposium objectives:

1. Identify new or alternate methods to promote vaccine programs, develop partnerships, and improve community immunization rates.
2. Discuss local and national use of herpes zoster vaccine with related impact on the disease epidemiology.
3. Identify ideas and methods to promote vaccine acceptance and allay public fear and misunderstanding about immunizations.
4. Explain why outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases need investigating
5. Report why disease surveillance is an essential component of an immunization program.
6. Discuss the potential impact of under-immunizing.
7. Integrate personal experience in the promotion of vaccines and improved immunization rates.

Visit [www.chicohio.com](http://www.chicohio.com) for more information.

### Online Offerings

#### WebEx

“Influenza and Pneumonia: Overview and How to Improve Immunization Services”

Wednesday, September 16, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Click [here](#) to register now!

Objectives:

- Review influenza and pneumococcal vaccine administration recommendations.
- Discuss appropriate billing and coding policies for multiple healthcare settings.
- Describe strategies to improve immunization rates in the primary care setting.

Visit [www.ohiokepro.com/OIPHA](http://www.ohiokepro.com/OIPHA) for more information.

#### CMEs/CEs

CME Ohio.com

[www.cmeohio.com](http://www.cmeohio.com)

This website provides healthcare professionals with convenient online access to quality continuing education programming in a personalized setting. It offers a CME/CE Center through collaboration with Case Western Reserve University, The University of Toledo, Northeastern Ohio Universities Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy (NEOUCOM), The Ohio State Medical Center, Ohio University, The University of Cincinnati, and Wright State University, and other organizations.



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