

October 3, 2008

Dear Clinical Managers and Medical Directors:

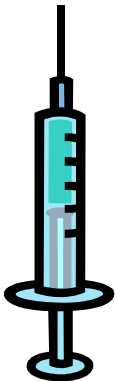
The 2008-09 Influenza season is upon us and there is no better time to promote immunizations! Please help reduce the incidence of influenza, pneumonia and Hepatitis B by vaccinating your patients and staff! Use the CDC Guidelines For Vaccinating Kidney Dialysis Patients and Patients With Chronic Kidney Disease to determine which of your patients should receive the vaccines (available on the Network #15 web-site).

Network #15 and Healthy People 2010 goals:

Vaccinate at least 90% of all ESRD patients and staff for pneumococcal pneumonia, influenza and Hepatitis B

Please help educate your staff and patients on the importance of preventing the spread of these diseases. It could save your patients' lives.

Clinical Managers will receive the following materials in this mailing:



- Brochure "Adult Immunizations" which contains general information for providers on all 3 vaccines as well as Medicare payment
- CDC "Take 3" poster in both English and Spanish
- Vaccine information statement sheets for all 3 vaccines (English and Spanish)
- Healthcare Personnel Vaccination Recommendations
- Sample Adult Vaccination Screening Form
- Placard "Get the Flu Shot Not the Flu"

Additional immunization information as well as the above resources are posted on the ESRD Network #15 web-site @: www.esrdnet15.org

Tips for improving vaccination rates:

- Involve patients in tracking their vaccinations whether they are received at the facility or given by other providers (tracking form is available on our web-site)
- Promote the use of standing orders (example available on web-site or call us for word file)
- Review vaccination rates routinely as part of your Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement (QAPI) program. Take action if you haven't met your goal.
- Make it easy for your patients! Provide vaccinations at the dialysis unit. Remember you can bill Medicare for patient vaccinations that are administered at your clinic.

You will receive a facility-specific report containing your vaccination rates for the 2007-2008 season soon. If you have not reached the 90% vaccination goal, the Network #15 staff are available to assist you in formulating a quality improvement plan. Should you have questions or require additional materials, please feel free to contact the Network office @ 303-831-8818.

The Quality Improvement Department at Network #15 thanks you in advance for your participation in this important Network initiative.