

# Best Practices for Improving Immunization Rates

Compiled by Partners For Kids



## Assess Current Immunization Rates

- Know immunization rates for your providers, your practice and your geography (state, county and national).



## Avoid Missed Opportunities

- Develop standardized processes to assess immunization status and administer all vaccines due at all visit types.
- Become familiar with true contraindications for vaccination – these are rare.
- Obtain accurate patient specific vaccine history by using the state immunization registry.
- Optimize use of the electronic health record and the state immunization registry to identify patients who are overdue for vaccines using chart alerts, recalls and reminders.
- Have all providers agree to use the same schedule, including initiating each vaccine series at the earliest possible age (e.g.: MMR at 12 months; HPV at 9 years).



## Improve Access

- Develop standing orders for “vaccine only” visits.
- Standardize scheduling for follow-up doses.



## Overcome Vaccine Hesitancy

- Know the vaccination beliefs held by your staff and work to ensure all providers and staff make a strong recommendation for all vaccinations.
- Improve the conversation around vaccines with patients and families.
  - Teach staff and providers to use scripted language to make a strong, universal, non-judgmental recommendation for all vaccines as part of regular preventive care.
  - Emphasize the benefits and safety of each vaccine.
  - Ask permission to discuss concerns about vaccination and respect the answer if it is no.
  - Ask permission to discuss again at the next visit.

**Implementing each of these best practices has been shown to improve immunization rates and reduce vaccine preventable diseases.**

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