

# Expanding Access to Vaccines

Linh Lee, PharmD  
Ralphs Grocery Company

# Pharmacists and Immunizations

- American Pharmacists Association (APhA) National Certificate Training Program in 1996
- CA Business and Professions Code 4052
  - Pharmacist authorized to administer immunizations pursuant to a protocol
- No age restriction or specific patient population



## Vaccines per protocol

- ACIP recommendations
  - Hepatitis A and B
  - Herpes Zoster
  - Human Papillomavirus
  - Influenza
  - MMR
  - Meningococcal
  - Pneumococcal
  - Td/Tdap
  - Varicella zoster

| Vaccine                                  | Age Group | 19-49 years   | 50-64 years            | ≥65 years              |
|--|-----------|---|------------------------|------------------------|
| Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Td/Tdap) |           | 1 dose (1 booster if 10 yrs for Td or 5 years for Tdap) | 1 booster every 10 yrs | 1 booster every 10 yrs |
| Human papillomavirus (HPV)               |           | 3 doses (3 months)                                      | 2 doses                | 1 dose                 |
| Varicella                                |           |   | 2 doses                | 2 doses                |
| Zoster                                   |           |   |                        | 1 dose                 |
| Meningococcal polysaccharide (MPSV2)     |           | 1 or 2 doses  |                        | 1 dose                 |
| Influenza                                |           |   | 1 dose annually        | 1 dose                 |
| Pneumococcal polysaccharide (PPSV23)     |           | 1-2 doses   |                        | 1 dose                 |
| Hepatitis A                              |           |   | 2 doses                |                        |
| Hepatitis B                              |           |   | 3 doses                |                        |
| Meningococcal conjugate (MenACWY)        |           |   | 1 or 2 doses           |                        |

For all vaccines in this category that exceed the age requirement, a booster dose is recommended 10 years after the last dose, unless otherwise indicated. For all vaccines in this category that exceed the age requirement, a booster dose is recommended 10 years after the last dose, unless otherwise indicated.

## Benefits

- Problem lies with lack of immunizations to the public as a whole
- Improve the overall immunization rate
- Increase accessibility for patients
- Consumer convenience
- Established relationship between patients and their community pharmacist
- Improve patient care

## Strategic Plan

- Targeting population groups
  - Senior population (MTM)
- Underserved/Uninsured communities
  - CPG partnership
- Private businesses
  - Office buildings
  - Employer groups
- Technology
  - Website locaters
  - Reminders via text messages/IVR
- Medical Group clinical service contracting

**strat.e.gy**  
(strat' ə- jē) / n.  
1. Plan of action designed to achieve a particular goal.

## Challenges

- Standardized training
- State laws vary
  - Limit types of vaccines
  - Establish age limit
  - Physician prescription vs. standing order
  - Routes of administration
- Immunization registry
- Consumer buy in
- Competition

| Any vaccine                | AL, AK, AZ, AR, CA, CO, DE, GA*, HI, ID, IL, IN*, IA, KS, KY, LA, MI, MN, MS, MT, NE, NV, NJ, NM, NC*, ND, OK, OR**, PA, RI, SC*, TN, TX, UT**, VT, VA*, WA, WI |
|----------------------------|---|
| Influenza Only             | DC, FL, MA, NH, PR  |
| Influenza and Pneumococcal | NY, WV  |
| Other combos               | OH, CT, ME, MD, MO, SD, WY  |

Based on APhA Survey of State IZ Laws/Rules conducted in collaboration with NASPA, November 2010 (updated January 2011).

## Biggest Challenge

- Reimbursement
  - Out of pocket
- Employer plans
  - HSA, FSA
- Private employers
- Medicare (Part B and D)
- Medicaid
- Third party



## Roles of the Pharmacist

- Educator
  - Advocate the need for vaccinations
  - Motivate patients
  - Serve as a resource for information
- Facilitator
  - Host others who vaccinate
- Immunizer
  - Actively administer vaccinations

