

The Role of Community Pharmacists in Providing Immunizations

Albert Bach, Pharm.D.

Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice

Chapman University, School of Pharmacy

Irvine, CA

Objectives

- Discuss the current scope of practice for pharmacists provided immunizations in CA
- Describe the process and delivery model of immunization services in a community-pharmacy
- List future considerations that can lead to more effective provision of immunizations by community pharmacists

Background

- 93% of Americans live within 5 miles of a community pharmacy
- In 2013, 86% of community pharmacies in the U.S. provide adult immunizations
 - Increases the number of immunization providers and the number of sites where patients can receive immunizations.
 - Pharmacists report an increase in patient referral from physicians
- Important to understand the current role of community pharmacy-based immunization programs to identify opportunities and challenges for improving the public health infrastructure to deliver vaccinations.

Roles of Pharmacists in Immunization Advocacy



EDUCATOR



FACILITATOR



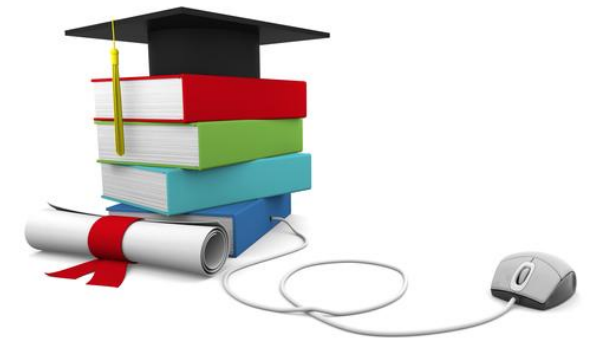
IMMUNIZER

Pharmacy's Contribution

- Access, proximity, extended hours
 - Patients often reported their preference for receiving vaccinations in a pharmacy or from a non-physician in a nontraditional setting was due to convenience.
- Support completion of multi-dose vaccines
 - First dose from PCP– remainder of series from pharmacy
- Identify high-risk patients easily based upon their medications (inferred diagnosis)
- Awareness campaigns
- Vaccine resource/drug information
- Contribution to registries
- Ranked top 3 most honest and ethical profession in the U.S. (Gallup Poll)

Education & Training

- CDC & nationally recognized 20 hour certificate training program from APhA
- Immunization education is a requirement in pharmacy school curriculum
- Continuing education programs and requirements
- ACIP & CDC
- APhA Immunizing Pharmacists Listserv, CDC email, Immunization Action Coalition Express, & other periodicals & publications



Pharmacy-Based Immunization Delivery Certificate Program

Self-Study Module (12 hours)	Live Training Seminar (8 hours)
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Pharmacists, Vaccines, and Public Health2. Overview of Immunology & Vaccine Development3. Vaccine-Preventable Diseases4. Patient Care Considerations for Immunizing Pharmacists5. Operating a Pharmacy-Based Immunization Program	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Immunization needs, legal and regulatory issues, and injection-technique training2. Review adult & pediatric patient cases3. Opportunities for pharmacists to fill the gap in vaccine delivery4. Communicating with patients who have concerns about vaccines5. Practice Implementation6. Recognition and management of patients with adverse reactions to vaccination that constitute an emergency7. Demonstrate appropriate intramuscular and subcutaneous injection techniques for adult immunization

Pharmacists' Immunization Administration Authority

- All 50 states in the U.S. including Washington DC and Puerto Rico, allow pharmacists to administer vaccinations.
- Amongst states, laws vary:
 - Need for a protocol and/or prescription
 - Minimum age limit
 - Type of vaccines



Overview of State Based IZ Laws in the U.S.

- Prescriber Issued Protocols vs. Rx
 - 31 states – Standing order protocol or prescription
 - 12 states – Protocol, prescription, or no prescriber needed
 - Depending on the age and/or vaccine
 - The remaining states – Protocol only or prescription only
- Patient-Age Limitations
 - 21 states – No age limits
- Types of vaccine
 - 45 states – Any type of vaccine

California Law – Prior to 2014

- 4052 (11) Administer immunizations pursuant to a protocol with a prescriber
 - Using standing orders



California Law – As of January 1, 2014 (SB 493)

- 4052.8 (a) In addition to the authority provided in paragraph (11) of subdivision (a) of Section 4052, a **pharmacist may independently initiate and administer vaccines listed on the routine immunization schedules recommended by the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)**, in compliance with individual ACIP vaccine recommendations, and published by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for persons **three years of age and older**.

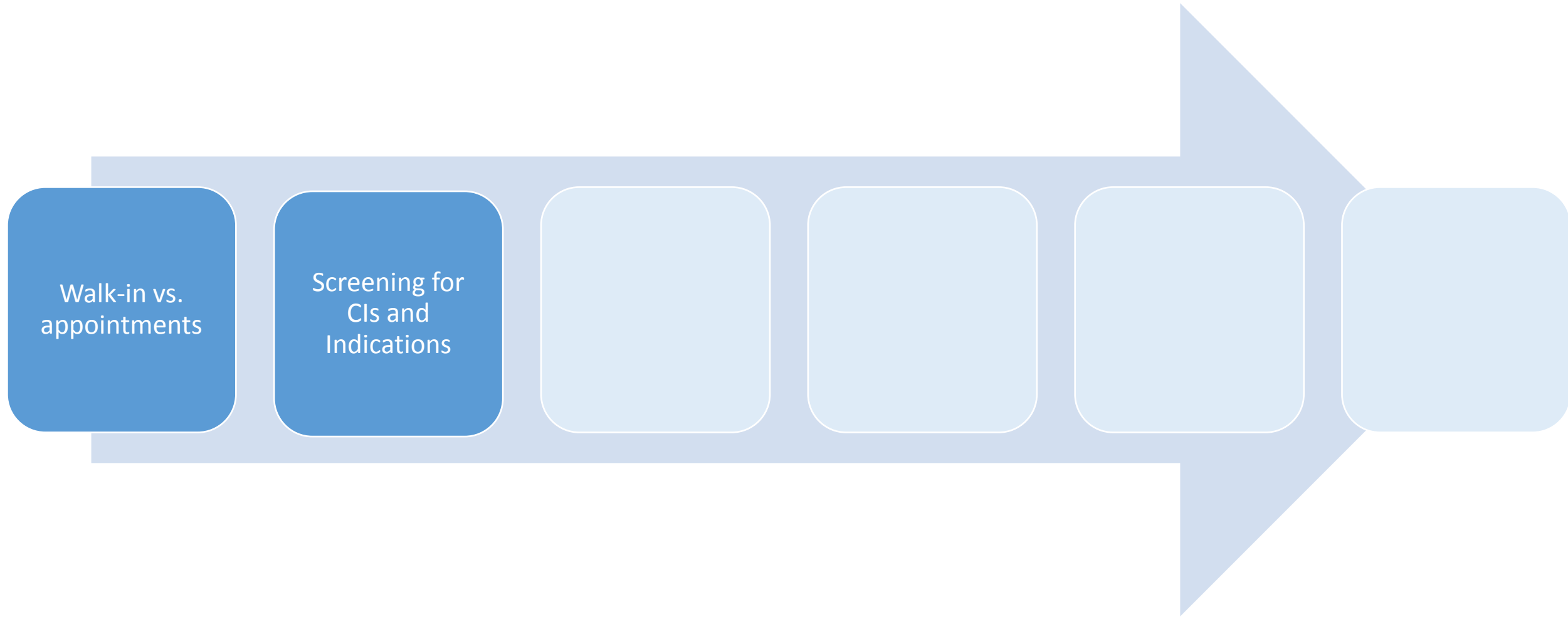
SB 493: Immunization Requirements

- (4052.8) In order to initiate and administer an immunization described in subdivision (a), a pharmacist shall do **all** of the following:
 - (1) Complete an **immunization training program endorsed by the CDC or the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education** that, at a minimum, includes hands-on injection technique, clinical evaluation of indications and contraindications of vaccines, and the recognition and treatment of emergency reactions to vaccines, and shall maintain that training.
 - (2) Be **certified in basic life support**.
 - (3) Comply with all state and federal recordkeeping and reporting requirements, including providing **documentation to the patient's primary care provider** and **entering information in the appropriate immunization registry** designated by the immunization branch of the State Department of Public Health.

SB 493: Which Vaccines?

Routine (No Standing Order Necessary)	Requires Standing Order
Td, DT, Tdap, DTaP Hepatitis A Hepatitis B MCV4 and MPSV4 PPSV23 and PCV13 Influenza 2vHPV, 4vHPV, 9vHPV Polio MMR Varicella Zoster	Typhoid Japanese Encephalitis Rabies Yellow Fever

Community Pharmacy-Based Immunization Delivery Process



Screening Checklist for Contraindications to Vaccines for Adults

For patients: The following questions will help us determine which vaccines you may be given today. If you answer "yes" to any question, it does not necessarily mean you should not be vaccinated. It just means additional questions must be asked. If a question is not clear, please ask your healthcare provider to explain it.

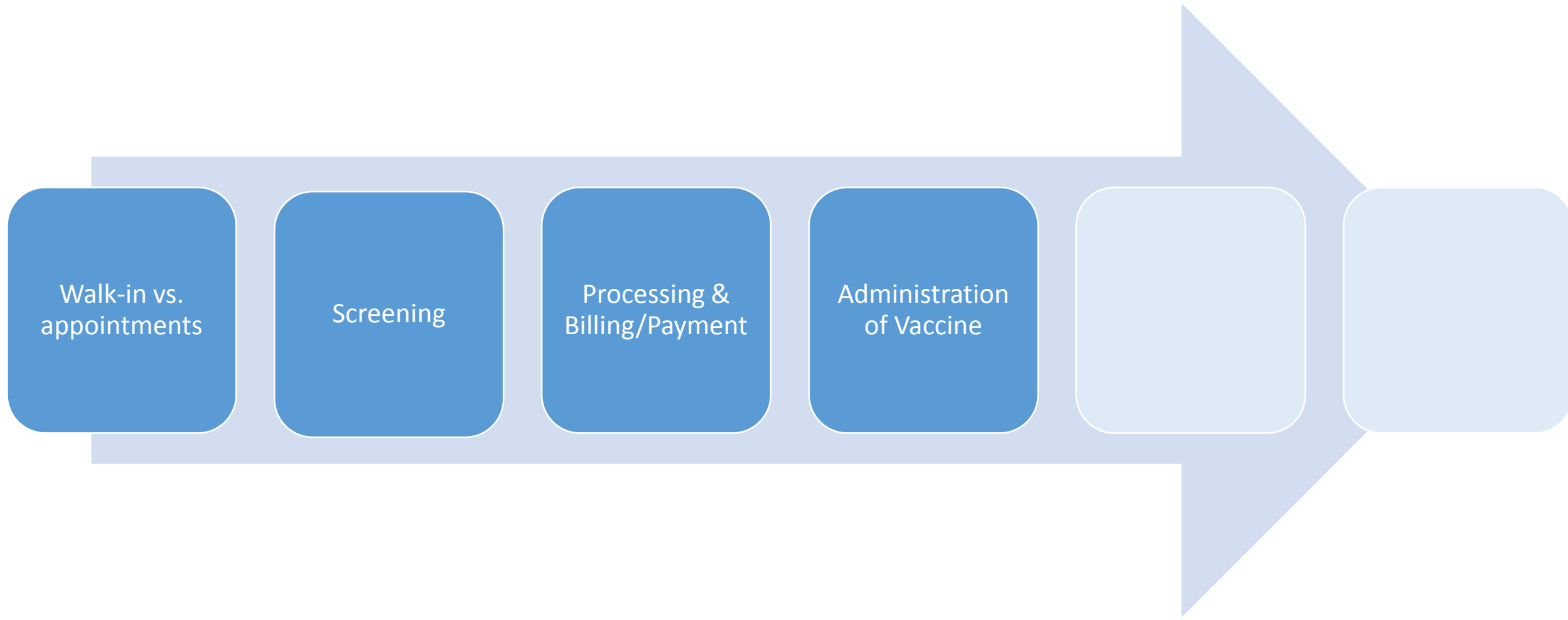
	Yes	No	Don't Know
1. Are you sick today?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Do you have allergies to medications, food, a vaccine component, or latex?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Have you ever had a serious reaction after receiving a vaccination?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Do you have a long-term health problem with heart disease, lung disease, asthma, kidney disease, metabolic disease (e.g., diabetes), anemia, or other blood disorder?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Do you have cancer, leukemia, HIV/AIDS, or any other immune system problem?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. In the past 3 months, have you taken medications that weaken your immune system, such as cortisone, prednisone, other steroids, or anticancer drugs, or have you had radiation treatments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Have you had a seizure or a brain or other nervous system problem?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. During the past year, have you received a transfusion of blood or blood products, or been given immune (gamma) globulin or an antiviral drug?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. For women: Are you pregnant or is there a chance you could become pregnant during the next month?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Have you received any vaccinations in the past 4 weeks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

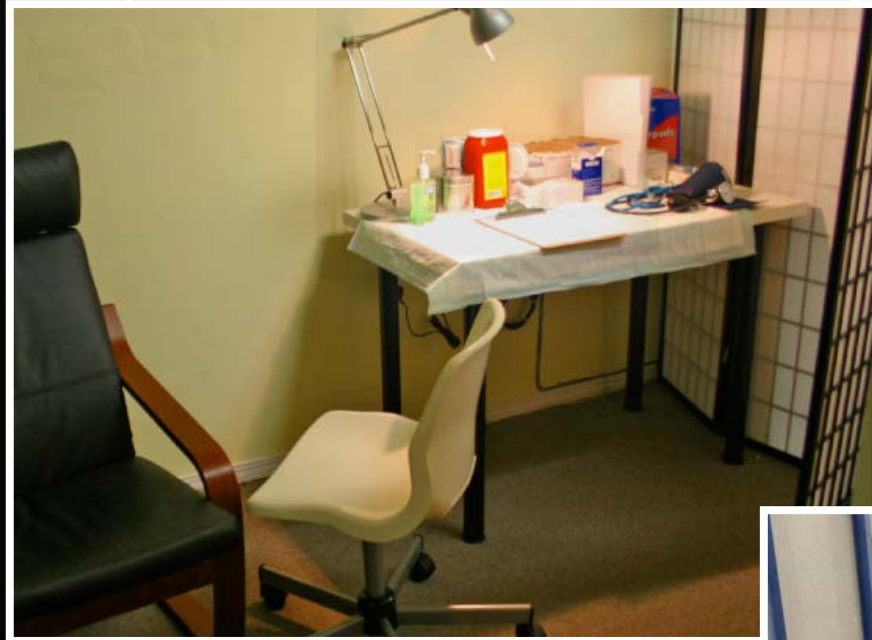
Form completed by: _____ Date: _____
 Form reviewed by: _____ Date: _____

Did you bring your immunization record card with you? yes no

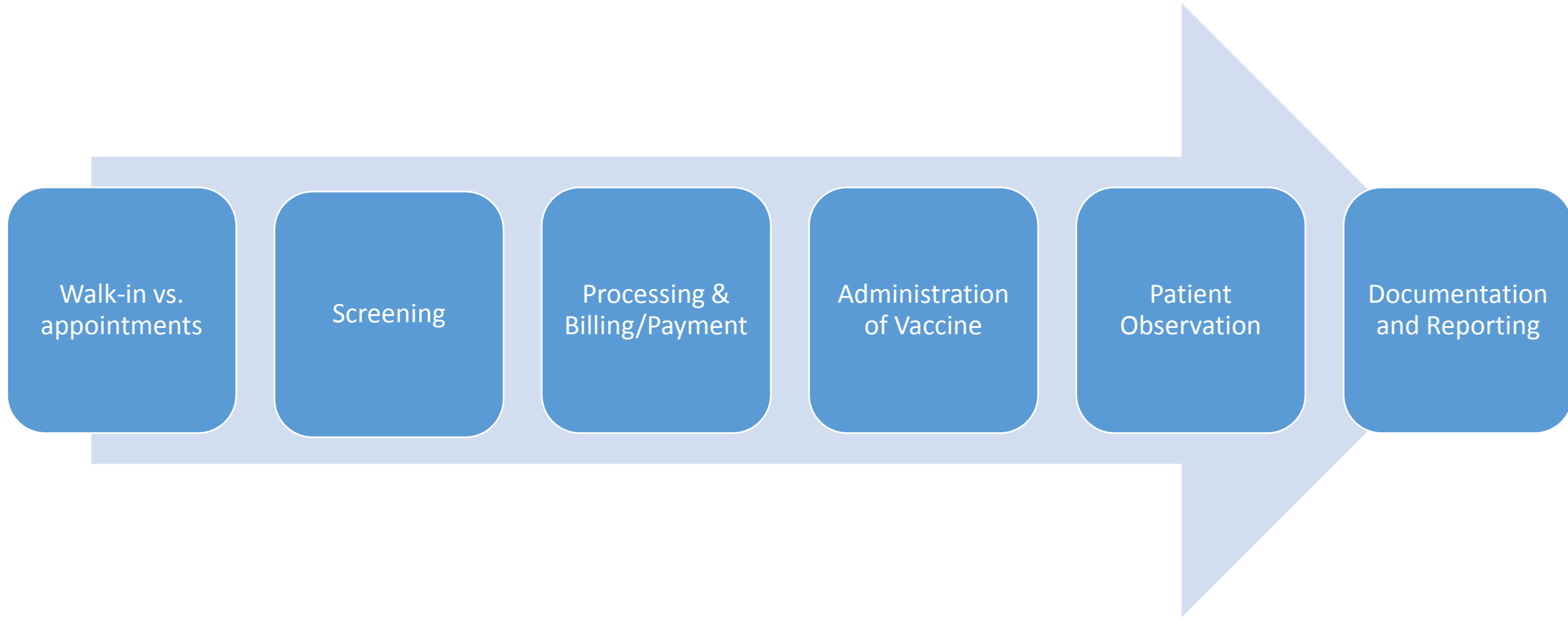
It is important for you to have a personal record of your vaccinations. If you don't have a personal record, ask your healthcare provider to give you one. Keep this record in a safe place and bring it with you every time you seek medical care. Make sure your healthcare provider records all your vaccinations on it.

Community Pharmacy-Based Immunization Delivery Process



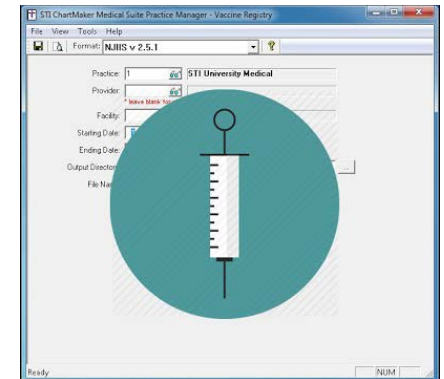


Community Pharmacy-Based Immunization Delivery Process



Current Challenges

- Reimbursement
- Technology (Shared EHR/EMR)
- Pharmacy reporting of vaccination services



Challenges: Reimbursements

- Limited number of commercial and governmental health plans offer patient's coverage for receiving vaccinations from a pharmacy
- For physicians and for pharmacists, many times the reimbursements barely cover the cost of the vaccine product and administration resulting in no net revenue or even a loss.
- Need: All CDC-recommended vaccines should be able to be billed from either the pharmacy or medical benefit
 - With uniformity in cost-sharing and reimbursement for product and administration cost across all provider types

Challenges: Technology

- Lack of shared patient record systems
 - Lack of shared patient record systems with the medical home has led to inconsistent communication between pharmacists and PCPs
- Inadequate pharmacy information management systems (PIMS)
 - Electronic clinical reminders are typically seen in an electronic medical records (EMR) and not in a PIMS system.
 - Cannot directly communicate with IIS
- Need: Bi-directional communication between EHRs, PIMS, and IIS.

Challenges: Reporting

- CA pharmacists will be mandated reporters to state IIS
 - No other providers in CA are MANDATED (by legislation, regulations, rules or policy) to report immunizations to the IIS (<http://www2a.cdc.gov/vaccines/iis/iissurvey/surveyresult.asp?id=28>)
- Pharmacy-IIS reporting challenges: many PIMS cannot directly communicate with the IIS, time consuming paperwork and disruption of workflow, and lack of standard reporting mandates, procedures, and formats.
- Need: Continued work of IIS with PIMS vendors to ensure compatibility, and consider a mandate for all immunization providers to report to IIS