



PHYSICIAN PARTNERS

QUALITY TIP TUESDAY

Influenza Vaccine

The influenza vaccine, commonly known as the flu shot, is an annually updated vaccine designed to protect against influenza viruses. It's recommended for everyone 6 months and older, with rare exceptions, to get vaccinated each flu season

Recommendations:

September and October are still the best months to vaccinate most patients. However, there are certain groups of people that could receive their vaccination in July or August, such as individuals with the following circumstances:

- People who are pregnant in their third trimester to ensure their baby is protected from the flu after birth
- Children who need two doses can get the first dose once the vaccine becomes available
- Children who have health care visits during the months before school starts and might not visit their physician in September or October

Tips for Success:

- **Vaccine acceptance-** Patients are more likely to accept a vaccine recommendation from a source they know well and trust, such as their family physician, a care team member or community leaders
- **Coadministration-** The influenza vaccine can be coadministered with other vaccines, such as the following: COVID-19; respiratory syncytial virus; tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis; and pneumococcal
- **Vaccination timing-** Influenza vaccination in July and August is not recommended for certain populations. It is recommended that most people who only need one dose of an influenza vaccine for the flu season should be vaccinated in September or October. Influenza vaccinations should continue throughout the season as long as influenza viruses are circulating
- **Older adults-** Adults 65 and older should preferentially receive a high-dose inactivated, adjuvanted inactivated or recombinant influenza vaccine. If one of these options is not available, the standard influenza vaccine should be administered
- **People with history of egg allergy-** Studies have shown that there is minimal risk to giving patients who have an egg allergy any influenza vaccine that is appropriate for their age and health status. These patients may receive either an egg-based or non-egg-based vaccine

*PDF available to the offices for printing

**Additional information on HEDIS and more, please refer to you MPP Quality Top 10 guide

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