

Assuming that you get all of the vaccine you need, how are you planning to handle influenza vaccinations in your practice this season?

Organizing priority lists:

- Using CDC recommendations
- Compile a list from previous year's vulnerable patients that received the vaccination.
- Compile list of staff receiving vaccination.
- Compile list of non-vulnerable patients for vaccination.

Getting the Word Out:

- Advertise –
 - In clinics
 - Local paper
 - Radio
 - Left on answering machines
- Phone calls to patients on previously mentioned lists (starting in September)
- Beginning educating high-risk patients during late summer visits and encourage them to start coming in the fall.
- Increase awareness among clinic staff and physicians to encourage pts. to receive vacc.
- Weekly calls are made to other providers for availability of vaccine and walk-ins.
- Query the EMR to see if it helps with notification of potential flu vacc. recipients.

Implementing the Vaccine:

- Walk ins for flu shot only (vulnerable patients – first come, first serve. Then non-vulnerable patients – first come, first serve.)
- Flu shot clinics on days when physician is out of the office
- Standing orders for nurses to give shots to appropriate patients.
- Schedule 3 flu shot days starting at the end of October
- If vaccine is not available in this clinic or they run out, refer to local commercial establishments (may charge more).
- Hold flu clinics, on a day when physician is out, at local manufacturing plants or other large establishments for their employees.

Other Ideas/Notes:

- Develop a county-wide flu network. For example, include the county's doctors' offices, health department and any other health facility (Indian clinics, etc.). An agreement should be set in place to hold off offering the vaccine until a specified date.
- Medicare will reimburse better if the patient comes in for the vaccine only. Otherwise, they may only pay for serum and not the administration of the vaccine. This can be different from year to year.