



How Do You Rate?

Information about the Assessment, Feedback, Incentives and Exchange (AFIX) Project

Help Ohio assure that 90 percent of all 2-year-olds are appropriately immunized.

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Immunization Program and participating local health districts provide an effective, confidential program for health care providers to determine and improve the immunization rates of their 2-year-old patients. The program is titled Assessment, Feedback, Incentives and Exchange (AFIX). The assessment reviews age-specific patient immunization records to determine practice immunization coverage levels and identifies procedures associated with low immunization rates. Based on the assessment results, feedback is provided to the practice, including the physician and nursing staff, concerning vaccine delivery practices. With the assistance of an immunization representative from the state or local health district, the feedback session provides a valuable opportunity to discuss and prioritize quality improvement activities related to immunizations.

What is AFIX?

AFIX is an acronym for a set of strategies designed to improve immunization rates.

- Assessment of immunization coverage levels
- Feedback of information to providers and staff
- Incentives to recognize and reward outstanding and improved performance
- Exchange of best practices and implementation progress via follow-up

Why assess immunization rates?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) supports the goal of assuring that 90 percent of all 2-year-olds are up-to-date on their immunizations.

According to the National Immunization Survey (NIS) data from 2012, the US National immunization rate for 4 DTaP; 3 Polio; 1 MMR; 3 Hib; 3 Hepatitis B; 1 Varicella; and 4 PCV is 68.4% (± 1.4). The survey indicates that 66.8% (± 6.9) of Ohio's children 19-35 months old are immunized adequately with the series (MMWR, September 13, 2013 Vol. 62, No. 36). (Note that this NIS comparison data is looking at up-to-date status for children 19–35 months, which may show higher rates for state and/or national rates. AFIXs conducted in Ohio currently calculate series completion rates for 24-35 month old patients by 24 months of age.) *Do you know what your practice's current immunization coverage rate is?*

Why are assessment and feedback important?

Routine assessment and feedback of immunization coverage levels for health care providers is one of the most effective strategies for achieving high, sustainable immunization coverage (MMWR, March 15, 1996 Vol. 45, No.10). The Task Force on Community Prevention Services continues to recommend assessment and feedback

based on strong evidence from a comprehensive literature review.
(<http://www.thecommunityguide.org/vaccines/universally/RRproviderassessment.html>)

What software is used for the assessment?

- Comprehensive Clinic Assessment Software Application (CoCASA) was developed and is maintained by CDC
- Provides early indicators for the presence of significant barriers to immunization
- Reports provide the practice with information about the vaccination status during the critical primary series period

What does a record assessment and feedback session involve? *

Your practice provides the AFIX staff with a list of patients in your practice who are 24 through 35-months-old. The AFIX staff will select a random sample of charts to be pulled by either your staff or the AFIX staff. Immunization data from each child’s chart in the sample are entered into the CoCASA software. After all data are entered, reports are generated for the feedback session that include the vaccination coverage level; missed opportunities for simultaneous administration; information about children who started their immunizations late; drop-off rate; and a list of children who are missing immunizations. During the feedback session the reports will be reviewed with you and your staff. Ideas and strategies will be discussed that could help your practice improve immunization practices and ultimately increase immunization coverage of your pediatric patients.

What about patient confidentiality?

The AFIX Project is sponsored by the CDC and administered by ODH and its local health partners. Medical practices may use the AFIX process as a means to improve their immunization policies, procedures, and practices; thereby improving immunization rates and outcomes. Accordingly, the nature and purpose of the AFIX Project for Ohio meet the definition of “health care operations” as set out in 45 C.F.R. 164.501 and thus prior authorization from patients or their parents/guardians is not required for a medical practice to participate.

Patient confidentiality is a priority and will be maintained at all times. Unless specifically requested by the practice, the only data to be collected from patient charts will be the patient name, date of birth, immunization history and history of any vaccine-preventable diseases. None of this information will be entered in an immunization registry. The AFIX Project for Ohio personnel and representatives are trained to avoid being unnecessarily exposed to protected health information. After careful review and consideration, the AFIX Project for Ohio Statement of Confidentiality indicates compliance with the relevant provisions of HIPAA and other federal and state laws.

Have your practices assessed today and assure that your patients are immunized appropriately by age two.

For more information or to request an AFIX visit, contact your local health district or the Ohio Department of Health Immunization Program at (614) 466-4643 or (800) 282-0546.

*If your practices uses ImpactSIIS, Ohio’s immunization registry, the assessment process can be simplified. Ask your LHD contact for details.