



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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John R. Kasich / Governor

Theodore E. Wymyslo, M.D. / Director of Health

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Dear Immunization Provider:

I would like to invite you to participate in an effective, confidential program for your practice to determine and improve the immunization rates of your two-year old patients. As you may know, results from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 2012 National Immunization Survey (NIS) indicate that roughly 66.8 percent of Ohio's children who are 19-35 months old are adequately immunized. Ohio's goal is to have 90 percent of all two-year olds appropriately immunized.

The continuous quality improvement program is entitled Assessment, Feedback, Incentives, and Exchange (AFIX). The assessment offers a review of pediatric immunization records to determine practice immunization coverage levels and identify procedures associated with reduced immunization rates. The feedback session provides a valuable opportunity for a practice to discuss and prioritize quality improvement activities related to immunizations with the assistance of an immunization representative from the state or local health department. Routine assessment and feedback of immunization coverage levels for individual providers or provider sites is one of the most effective strategies for achieving high, sustainable immunization coverage.

How does it work? The process is simple. Your practice provides the assessment team with a list of age-specific patients in your practice. The assessment team will select a random sample of charts to be pulled by either your staff or the assessment team. Immunization data from each child's chart in the sample are entered into CDC-developed computer software. After all data are entered, reports are generated for the feedback session. These reports include: the immunization coverage level; information about children who started their immunizations late; drop-off rates; missed opportunities for simultaneous immunization; and a list of children with missing and invalid immunizations.

Patient confidentiality is a priority. Unless specifically requested by the practice, the data to be collected from patient charts will include 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. References to any patient specific information will be kept to the minimum information necessary to provide the feedback.

Additionally, the Ohio Department of Health AFIX program recognizes practices that have outstanding immunization coverage levels along with those who have made significant improvements in their immunization coverage levels.

When you participate in the AFIX process, you will help to assure that children in your practice are immunized appropriately and in a timely fashion. For more information or to request an AFIX visit, please contact the Ohio Department of Health at (614) 466-4643 or (800) 282-0546 or your local health department.

Sincerely,

Theodore E. Wymyslo, M.D.
Director of Health