



Improving HPV Immunization Coverage in Maine Practices

The Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics is excited to offer FIVE practices in our state the opportunity to take part in an AAP District-wide initiative to improve HPV vaccination coverage rates among patients served by our chapters. This quality improvement (QI) project, funded under a cooperative agreement between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the AAP, is part of the Academy's effort to improve these coverage rates using a "hub and spoke" approach. It builds upon a QI training conducted by AAP staff at the District I meeting in July, 2016, with the goal of enhancing chapter capacity to support QI activities at the chapter level. All of the New England chapters, as well as the Uniformed Services East chapter, were successful in their application for grant funding to conduct this District-wide project, the first such effort in District I. We hope that you and your colleagues will consider participating in this project **to improve HPV immunization coverage rates in primary care settings.**

As you know, HPV is the most common sexually transmitted disease and causes over 95% of cervical cancers; it is also a leading cause of vaginal, vulvar, penile, anal, and oropharyngeal cancers. HPV vaccination rates in the US are alarmingly low, and Maine is no exception: in 2015, only 44.1% of females and 46.7% of males 13-17 years of age received the complete three-dose series in our state.¹ Furthermore, despite the CDC's recommendation to vaccinate at 11-12 years of age, most adolescents do not initiate vaccination at this age. **We believe that practice-level change is vital to addressing this gap and improving coverage rates; as such, our project is designed to aid practice teams in implementing evidence-based vaccine delivery strategies in order to lower HPV prevalence in their communities.** Combined with efforts by the Maine Immunization Program staff who are eager to support improvement efforts, we have a great opportunity to impact vaccination rates in Maine!

Benefits of project participation (project runs February 2017 - September 2017):

- Earn credit toward ABP Maintenance of Certification (MOC), Part 4
- Receive QI coaching and support, including project-specific customized tools and materials
- Receive assistance in assessing your system for HPV vaccine delivery, recognizing barriers, and selecting evidence-based strategies to test with PDSA cycles
- Participate in monthly Learning Collaborative webinars on topics such as delivering a strong provider recommendation for HPV vaccine and reducing Missed Opportunities for vaccination
- Track your practice's progress by entering data into the AAP's Quality Improvement Data Aggregator (QIDA) and receiving monthly feedback reports
- Receive a site visit using a standardized patient to help improve provider and office staff messaging to patients

Requirements for research project participation:

- Designate a practice Clinic Champion and QI/Change team
- Attend one hour-long orientation call
- Participate in at least 5 of 6 monthly hour-long Learning Collaborative webinars
- Assess your practice's pre- and post-project HPV vaccine coverage rates (using data from your patient records and/or state immunization registry)
- Collect data on MOC measures for at least 5 data cycles over a project period of 6 consecutive months
- Submit monthly PDSA log sheets to guide rapid-cycle improvement

We hope that you will consider joining us for this exciting project. There will be a stipend for each participating practice. **If you are interested in participating, please contact Dee Kerry, Executive Director, Maine AAP, at dakerry@aap.net or call 207-480-4185. Thank you.**

¹ Reagan-Steiner S, Yankey D, Jeyarajah J, Elam-Evans LD, Curtis CR, et al. National, regional, state, and selected local area vaccination coverage among adolescents aged 13-17 years - United States, 2015. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep.* 2016;65(33):850-858.