Improving Influenza Vaccination Rates Among Health Care Workers

Flu Season Is Here

What is your policy for influenza (flu) vaccinations among staff and physicians? Flu infections may lead to nosocomial outbreaks among patients and create staff shortages. Below are some interventions that have proven to be effective in improving health care worker immunization rates and will improve your performance on Ambulatory Surgery Center-8 (ASC-8), Inpatient Psychiatric Quality Reporting Program and Outpatient Quality Reporting Program (OP-27) measures:

- Provide free annual vaccinations for staff
- Offer easy access, such as on-site vaccinations
- Send reminders and incentives for vaccinations
- Assign one person to be responsible for the vaccination program
- Monitor and track health care professional (HCP) vaccinations and post rates in the employee break room
- Implement a mandatory immunization policy that requires a signed declination for any HCP declining a vaccine

Now is the time to carry over lessons learned for the 2015-2016 flu season and set up a process for the current year. Here are some great resources to get you started:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) Healthcare Personnel Vaccination Module: Influenza Vaccination Summary (PDF) http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/hps-manual/hps_manual-exp-plus-flu-portfolio.pdf

The CDC's Five-Step Guide to Enroll in the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)
http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/acute-care-hospital/enroll.html

ASC-8: What You Need to Know to Successfully Report
http://www.ascassociation.org/federalregulations/qualityreporting/asc8faqs

ASC-8/OP-27 – Influenza Vaccination Coverage Among Healthcare Personnel

ASCs, critical access hospitals (CAHs), inpatient psychiatric facilities (IPFs) and acute care hospitals are all now required to report the Influenza Vaccination Coverage Among Healthcare Personnel measure under their respective quality reporting program. To submit this data, these facilities must be enrolled in the NHSN.

The reference period for the Influenza Vaccination Coverage Among Healthcare Personnel for Contract Year 2017 began Oct. 1, 2015, and extends through March 31, 2016, with a data submission deadline of May 15, 2016.

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