



Examples of Quality Improvement Projects in Adult Immunization

The following activities are provided to prompt your thinking about what works best for your practice. When designing a project, consider the following:

1. Clinical Setting:
 - x What

Extended Examples of Quality Improvement Projects in Adult Immunization

These extended examples will highlight the Residency Clinic and the Private Practices vaccination settings. These examples are provided to illustrate the practice improvement process, and that actual efforts devised by physicians and their team may differ based upon individual needs. Regardless of the setting, these examples can be used as springboards to guide the planning of any immunization quality improvement project.

Residency is an ideal time to learn quality improvement skills and apply them to situations in the “real world.” Residency establishes the learning processes that physicians will continue to apply over the course of their careers. Residency provides an opportunity to develop good habits when residents are most open to learning new concepts and working in teams, a key to practice improvement. The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education requires internal medicine residencies to provide training in a continuity clinic setting.

Basic Ideas for Getting Started and Applying the PDSA Study-Act Cycle

When getting started, it is always best to start with basics. Here are some key elements to focus on first.

1) Form a Team

- x For the residency setting:
 - o Designate a physician champion to provide leadership and direction, such as a faculty physician who oversees residents in the outpatient clinic. Get administrative buy-in from the hospital leadership. Include a resident from each clinic day who is enthusiastic and influential among his or her peers as well as a member from the nursing, scheduling, and medical records staff.
- x For a practice setting:
 - o Designate a non-physician champion to provide leadership and direction on a day-to-day basis. Because it can be difficult for team members to attend scheduled meetings, consider communicating through weekly updates or quick “huddles” on a regular basis.

2) Evaluate Current Performance

Perform an initial chart review to provide a baseline snapshot of current performance. Use the data from a baseline assessment to identify an area needing improvement to tackle first.

- x Paper Charts Example
 - o If the baseline chart audit took weeks longer than expected because of poorly organized charts and a lack of consistent documentation of vaccinations by providers, start with a chart organization tool or a new immunization worksheet that will organize the patient’s vaccination history at a glance.
 - o The first PDSA cycle may be to make sure that this sheet is placed in every chart, is updated when the charts are pulled and prepped for the day, and then is updated again by everyone in the practice who orders vaccines.
- x EHR Example
 - o Ensure that all staff are aware of the correct fields to use for documentation of vaccination status. If a flow sheet for vaccines is not evident, contact the IT department or the EHR vendor for additional support. Many EHRs have the

