



Best Practice: Immunization

Medical Social Worker Track



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Medical Social Worker Track



This Best Practice Intervention Package is designed to educate and support social workers in the components necessary for a comprehensive home health immunization program that will support reducing avoidable acute care hospitalizations.

Objectives

After completing the activities included in the Social Worker Track of this **Best Practice Intervention Package – Immunization**, the learner will be able to:

1. Define the components of a home health immunization program.
2. Describe how immunization will support the reduction of avoidable acute care hospitalizations.
3. Describe two social worker actions that will ensure optimal immunization status for staff, patients and caregivers.

Complete the following activities:

	Activity	Location	Estimated Time
<input type="checkbox"/>	Review “Immunize Rather than Hospitalize” & the Social Worker’s Guide to Practical Application	Page 61	10 minutes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Listen to: Immunization Podcast	Page 63	10 minutes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete the social worker post-test	Page 64	10 minutes
	Total Time		30 minutes



Immunize Rather than Hospitalize!



Influenza Facts & Stats

Every year in the United States, on average more than **200,000 people are hospitalized** from flu complications.

For those aged 65 and older (especially home health patients who have conditions that put them at high risk for complications), influenza can be a serious and potentially life-threatening disease.

(CDC - www.cdc.gov/flu/keyfacts.htm)

Pneumonia Facts & Stats

Pneumococcal infection causes an estimated **1.4 million hospitalizations** for pneumonia annually in the U.S.

Whereas flu immunization occurs primarily in the fall, pneumococcal immunization status should be assessed and immunizations updated throughout the year.

All adults aged 65 and over should receive the pneumococcal vaccine unless the vaccine has been administered within the last five years (and there is documentation for such), or the vaccine is contraindicated for that patient.

Immunize if patient's immunization status is unknown or cannot be verified.

(CDC - www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/pneumonia.htm)

YOUR Responsibility



As a health care provider, you have an **ethical obligation** to protect your patients and their caregivers from the consequences of influenza. Getting immunized demonstrates your **professional commitment** to preserving the health of your co-workers, patients and their caregivers.




The "Healthy People 2010" goal is for 90 percent of health care workers to be immunized.

Immunize rather than hospitalize: Get your flu shot this season!



Immunization

Social Worker's Guide to Practical Application

<h1 style="color: green;">ASSESS</h1> 	<p>Be aware of immunization status of all patients for BOTH influenza and pneumonia.</p>
	<p>Reinforce to patients/caregivers the importance of receiving immunizations and how they may reduce hospitalizations.</p>
	<p>Remind family/caregivers of their need to be immunized against flu and pneumonia.</p>
	<p>Assess your own immunization status!</p>
<h1 style="color: orange;">ACCESS</h1> 	<p>Assist with transportation arrangements to physician office or clinic that will be providing influenza and/or pneumococcal immunization as needed.</p>
	<p>Identify and provide information to home health team, patients and caregivers about local immunization sources including pharmacies, grocery stores, health department, etc.</p>
<h1 style="color: red;">ADMINISTERed</h1> 	<p>Assist with verification that the patient received immunizations as planned.</p>
	<p>Inform patients that the influenza and pneumococcal vaccines can be safely given at the same time.</p>
	<p>Encourage patients/caregivers to carry an updated immunization record card.</p>



Immunization Multi-Media Activities Podcast* (Audio Recording)

Immunization Podcast (Audio Recording) Instructions:

Listen to the podcast (audio recording) to learn more about reducing avoidable acute care hospitalizations with immunization.

Immunization Audio Recording

- 10-minute podcast (audio recording) related to immunization
- Podcast (audio recording) link is located at <http://www.homehealthquality.org/hh/hha/interventionpackages/immunization.aspx>

There are several ways to listen to the podcast (audio recording):

- Visit the link above and listen directly through the Web site
- Download the podcast (audio recording) by right clicking on the audio file and selecting “Save Target As . . .” This will save the file to your hard drive. Once you have saved the file, you can listen to it on your computer or can burn the audio file to a CD or MP3 player.

*A podcast is a digital media file, often an audio recording, placed on the Internet and made available to the listener on their home computer or personal digital recording device for convenience. There is no change from previous references to “audio recordings” except the name. You may continue to download and listen to recordings as you have in previous months.

Clinician name: _____

Date: _____



Medical Social Worker Post-Test Immunization

Directions: Choose the ONE BEST response to the following questions. Circle your answer that identifies the ONE BEST response.

MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKER

1. The purpose of improving immunizations (influenza and pneumonia) is to assist with all of the following **except**:
 - A. Reducing acute care hospitalizations
 - B. Increasing pharmaceutical profits
 - C. Preventing some deaths associated with the infections
 - D. Decreasing the risk of spreading the influenza virus and developing complications from the pneumococcal bacteria
2. Assessing patients for their pneumonia status should occur year round. Pneumonia is not seasonal.
 - A. True
 - B. False
3. Pneumonia infection causes an estimated _____ number of hospitalizations annually in the U.S.
 - A. 14 hundred
 - B. 14 thousand
 - C. 140 thousand
 - D. 1.4 million
 - E. 140 million
4. The following people should be a priority in immunizing for influenza, **except**:
 - A. Patient
 - B. Caregivers
 - C. Health care workers
 - D. Immediate family
 - E. Out-of-state family who visits each summer
5. MSW may assist patients' immunization status by all of the following **except**:
 - A. Encouraging patient and caregiver immunization
 - B. Administering immunization
 - C. Getting self-immunized
 - D. Identifying and providing a listing of available influenza clinics for staff
 - E. Assisting with accessing transportation for patients

Answers to post-test are located in the Leadership Section page 34.