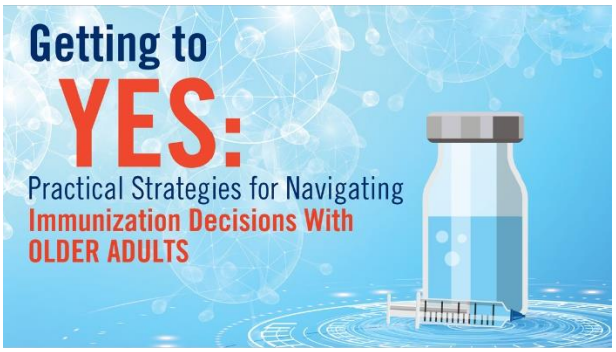

Getting to Yes:

Practical Strategies for Navigating Immunization Decisions with Older Adults

Key Messages about Vaccines for Older Adults

- Because susceptibility to infections and their complications increases as people age, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that older adults should be up to date on their vaccines—especially those for influenza; pneumococcal disease; tetanus; diphtheria; pertussis; and zoster.
- As for other populations, adults age 50 and older should receive an annual influenza vaccine. They may receive any age-appropriate inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV) or quadrivalent recombinant vaccine (RIV). This age group should NOT receive the inhaled live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV).
- To ensure continued protection against tetanus and diphtheria, booster doses of either tetanus/diphtheria (Td) or tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) vaccines should be administered every 10 years. Tdap is preferred for those who have not previously received it, or for those whose Tdap history is unknown.
- Recombinant zoster vaccine (RZV, 2-dose series) is recommended for all adults age 50 and older, or for those age 65 and older who have previously received the live zoster vaccine (LZV). Note that LZV is no longer available in the U.S.
- All adults age 65 and older should receive 1 dose of 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23). The 13-valent pneumococcal vaccine (PCV13) can be administered to adults 65 and older based on shared clinical decision-making that takes into consideration several factors, such as whether the patient has previously received a PCV13 vaccine as an adult, resides in a nursing homes or long-term care facility, lives in an area with low pediatric PCV13 vaccination rates, or plans travel to an area with no pediatric PCV13 program.
- For additional details about vaccines for older adults, please review the most current ACIP recommendations, found here: https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/adult.html.

Should People with COVID-19 Receive an Influenza Vaccine?

- Clinical experience with influenza vaccination in persons with COVID-19 is limited. ACIP states that clinicians can delay influenza vaccination in patients acutely ill with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. However, if influenza vaccination is delayed, patients should be reminded to return for it once they have recovered from their acute illness.

Key Strategies for Overcoming Barriers to Immunization in Older Adults

- Use the SHARE model, an approach to shared-decision making that can facilitate vaccine acceptance.
- Strongly recommend that your patients take the appropriate vaccines
- Consider concepts from behavioral economics that can help you to understand your patients' viewpoints and improve their perceptions and experience with vaccines.
    - **Default and norms:** People worry more about bad things that result from their actions than inactions ("omission bias"). You can help make vaccines more like an inaction than an action, for example, by conveying that vaccines the default (standard practice) unless patients opt out.
    - **Availability heuristic:** What we can recall seems more likely to us than what we can't. For example, patients may be more likely to remember perceived side effects of a vaccine. Making disease harms (versus perceived vaccine side effects) through education and publicity campaigns may help.
    - **Peak and End Rule:** memories of unpleasant experiences are based primarily on how bad the experience was at its worst, and how back it was at the end.

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Resources

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule. https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/adult/adult-combined-schedule.pdf.
- Ezeanolue E, et al. General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization. Best Practices Guidance of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/downloads/general-recs.pdf.
- CDC's Pandemic Guidance. https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pandemic-guidance/index.html.
- CDC Vaccine Information Statements (VISs) for patients (IIV; PCV13; PPSV23; Td; Tdap; Shingles). https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/index.html.
- National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA). Vaccination Toolkit 2020-2021. https://www.nhmamd.org/assets/2020%20Flu%20Vaccination%20Toolkit_2020-21.pdf.
- United States Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS). National Vaccine Program Office. National Adult Immunization Plan. https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/nvpo/national-adult-immunization-plan/naip.pdf.

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