

Pennsylvania Immunization Education Program

The Pennsylvania Immunization Education Program (IEP) represents a public-private partnership between the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (PA AAP), PA Academy of Family Physicians, PA Osteopathic Medical Association, and Philadelphia Department of Public Health. The IEP is based upon the Educating Physicians In their Communities (EPIC) and Assessment-Feedback-Intervention-eXchange of information (AFIX) models. The IEP is a statewide provider education program using office-based change as the key to improving immunization levels and immunization practices in Pennsylvania.

The IEP particularly seeks to help practices with low immunization rates or practice issues such as vaccine storage/handling issues. IEP and VFC programs work together to assess and educate the entire practice staff and support practice improvements.

Methods:

The CME/CEU curriculum focuses on how each member of the office team, including physicians, nurses, office managers, clerical and others, can work together to improve immunization rates. The IEP offers free, in-office, interactive CME/CEU immunization updates and CASA assessments. The primary service delivery format for the IEP consists of presenter teams visiting provider offices. IEP teams have conducted over 1,000 presentations to over 17,000 physicians, practice staff, health professional student groups, and others throughout Pennsylvania since 1997.

Presenters have a comprehensive IEP manual - a curriculum, slides, a brief videotape, and participant handouts - from which to select materials to meet site needs. Core topics include:

- Vaccine-preventable diseases
- Current immunization schedules and catch-up
- New vaccines and recommendations
- True and false contraindications to immunizations
- Department of Health Immunization initiatives
- Assessment, Feedback, Incentives & eXchange of information (AFIX) model for intervention strategies
- Legal concerns
- Insurance & reimbursement issues
- Recommendations to improve immunization documentation
- Reminder/recall systems
- Statewide Immunization Information System (SIIS) and Philadelphia KIDS registries

IEP presenters are trained teams comprised of a physician/nurse practitioner, practice manager, and a DOH Immunization Nurse or registry staff. The teams tailor presentations to site needs. IEPs facilitate sites identifying specific changes to improve immunization rates and practices. Follow-up consultation between the site and a PA AAP Practice Manager supports site changes.

Frequently seen outcomes from the IEP and follow-up consultation include:

- Agreeing that all staff will follow a common immunization schedule
- Instituting a feasible reminder/recall effort
- Instilling confidence in all staff to promote immunization to families
- Developing ways to avoid missed opportunities for immunization
- Identifying 2-3 changes that the entire practice staff supports
- Utilizing new materials from the IEP handout packets
- Improving vaccine storage and handling
- Joining or improving participation in an immunization registry

To do any of the following, [CLICK HERE](#) to send a message to the IEP staff:

- Request an IEP for your practice, professional conference, or student group in Pennsylvania
- Obtain information about being a presenter for the IEP

- Learn about FREE resource materials for your practice
- Receive information about immunization teleconferences
- Join the Vaccine Tips newsletter mailing list
- Obtain technical assistance for an immunization issue