



Suggestions for Next Steps

After reviewing the self-assessment data and your own practice patterns, you may wish to use these suggestions. Some of the following reasons for under-immunization and related suggestions concern office/clinic procedures. Reviewing them with the staff may provide opportunities for useful exchange about how the entire practice/clinic team can work together to improve immunization rates.

Reason for Low Immunization Rates	Suggested Practice Management steps to Improve Immunization Rates
Use of Inappropriate contraindications	Review contraindications list in this tool kit to ensure that only medically indicated contraindication are being followed
Patient began series late or fell behind	Use the minimum interval/catch-up schedule to quickly bring children/adults up-to-date for all vaccines
Patient could not be brought up-to-date in one visit	Using the minimum interval/catch-up schedule as a guide, schedule follow-up immunization visit(s) as necessary
Reluctance to administer simultaneous immunizations	Review your current practice and decide on ways to <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Provide parent/patient education and assurance about the benefits of immunization 2) Remind staff about the need for all immunizations to be administered 3) Establish an office/clinic policy to make an appointment for the next immunizations before the child leaves the office.
Parent/Patient unable to pay	If insurance coverage is in question, talk to the plan medical director or contact the local health department for a list of free immunization clinic services in your area
Referral to other clinic or health department	Make sure that <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) parents/patients are reminded of the importance of seeking on-time immunization 2) Patient's copy of the immunization record is reviewed at each visit and that all immunizations were given and recorded. 3) All immunizations, regardless of source are recorded on the patient record in your clinic

Vaccine unavailable	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) If supplies are depleted too quickly or expire before use, review use patterns and ordering procedures to ensure adequate supply 2) If there is a vaccine supply shortage, keep documentation regarding which children will need to be a part of recall/reminder procedures for more doses once vaccine is available.
Missed appointments	Institute reminder procedures by telephone or postcard
Parent Refusal for pediatric vaccines	Emphasize the importance of age-appropriate immunizations, describe vaccine preventable diseases, use handouts such as the Vaccine Information Statements, ensure language and cultural appropriateness of materials, and emphasize safety of immunizing child with mild acute illness. Refer parent to pertinent scientifically based web sites (in section 5 of notebook.)
Immunization available only during well child or "well adult" visits	Revise office protocols so that immunization status is reviewed and immunizations are provided as appropriate during every encounter with the child.
Difficulty assessing immunization status quickly	Add an immunization form to the chart and record immunization on this form as well as in the chronological chart
Low rates for a specific vaccine prevent patient from being up-to-date	Improve immunization status review procedures. Emphasize parent/patient education about all vaccine-preventable diseases and vaccines.