Strategies to Support and Improve Adult Vaccination Efforts Through Addressing Medicaid and Medicare Challenges

Explore key lessons learned on how immunization programs can overcome Medicaid and Medicare payment challenges at the state and local level.

The Association of Immunization Managers (AIM) received an educational grant through GSK's COiMMUNITY Initiative to support immunization program's adult vaccination efforts.

AIM identified four key strategies to address persistent barriers to adult immunizations in the United States:

1. Increase data transparency and use
2. Establish strategic community partnerships
3. Mitigate jurisdictional Medicare and Medicaid Payment challenges
4. Strengthen relationships with pharmacies

Understanding Vaccine Coverage

Medicare

- Part A (hospital setting): Part A covers care received as an inpatient in a hospital
- Part B (physician billing): Vaccines written into the Social Security Act (SSA) at no cost. Covers COVID-19, influenza, pneumonia, and hepatitis B vaccines
- Part D (pharmacy billing): Medicare prescription drug coverage created through the Medicare Modernization Act. Covers vaccines implemented after 2005 (unless added to SSA), including shingles, tetanus, diphtheria-whooping cough, RSV, etc.
    - The Inflation Reduction Act eliminated cost sharing for Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)-recommended vaccines under Part D

Medicaid

- Affordable Care Act (2010): Expanded the Medicaid program to cover all adults with income below 138% of the federal poverty level; however, not all states expanded their Medicaid programs. ACIP-recommended vaccines were included in the expansion
- Inflation Reduction Act (2022): Expanded state coverage for all ACIP-recommended adult vaccines in traditional Medicaid programs
- H.R. 1 (2025): Enacted federal spending cuts, including $700 billion coming from Medicaid. Medicaid provisions include enhanced premium tax credits for Affordable Care Act marketplace coverage, federal Medicaid work requirements, and more frequent eligibility redeterminations

Member Spotlight: Vermont Immunization Program

Strategies used by Vermont's immunization program to support providers and patients navigating their Medicaid coverage:

- Developed print/digital flyers for community partners
- Shared social media posts
- Offered presentations at community-based organizations, such as senior centers
- Shared information via newsletter and blog
- Increased internal capacity by training immunization program staff on Medicare coverage

Resources

- Adult Vaccine Access Coalition
- Vermont Vaccine Purchasing Program
- GSK Vaccine Track

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