



Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333

August 23, 2010

Dear Colleague:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in collaboration with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, is pilot-testing a new CDC-sponsored quality measure for reporting influenza vaccination among healthcare personnel (HCP). Influenza vaccination of HCP is associated with lower rates of patient illness and death from influenza, and fewer sick days among HCP. The National Quality Forum (NQF), a nonprofit organization dedicated to healthcare quality improvement, has recently issued a time-limited endorsement to this standardized quality measure. Quality measures that receive full NQF endorsement may be used by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) or other organizations.

The goals of the pilot test are: (1) to determine the feasibility of implementing the quality measure in various healthcare institutions; and (2) to identify barriers and facilitators to implementing this measure widely. Participation in this project is voluntary. Data obtained by CDC from this pilot will be published in aggregate form and will not individually identify participating institutions in any reports or publications. Institution-level data will be shared with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, who may use it for institution-based public reporting of HCP influenza vaccination rates, based on existing laws or agreements to this effect.

Participating institutions will be expected to electronically submit two reports (mid-point and final) to CDC describing rates of influenza vaccination, medical contraindications to vaccination, and declination of influenza vaccination among HCP working at the institution. We will also be collecting information about data sources and challenges to reporting data.

The data and feedback we receive from you during this pilot project will shape the specifications of the final measure for endorsement by NQF. Your participation in this pilot is extremely important to ensure that this measure is practical and useful for healthcare institutions of all types and sizes across the country.

Thank you for your participation in this effort to protect and promote the health of your staff and their patients. For further information regarding this project or to enroll your facility, please contact Dr. Anita Geevarughese in the Bureau of Immunizations at (212) 676-2282 or email at ageevarughese@health.nyc.gov.

Sincerely,

Lance E. Rodewald, M.D.
Director
Immunization Services Division
National Center for Immunization and
Respiratory Diseases