Charting a Path to Increase Immunization Rates in the Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Settings

Vaccines

are a critically important tool for reducing morbidity and mortality among older residents in long-term care settings, including skilled nursing care centers, assisted living communities. and post-acute care facilities. In an effort to maximize immunization rates in the nation's long-term care settings, The Gerontological Society of America convened a 1-day stakeholder meeting focused on successes and needs in immunization practice for long-term care staff and residents.

Learn more at

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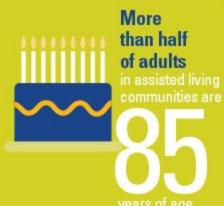
https://navp.org/images/navp/ PDF/ImmunizRatesWP_FNL.pdf

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Long-Term Care Residents

million people are admitted to long-term care facilities each year





Disease Impact

Influenza and pneumonia are the

th leading cause of deaths among Americans

of those deaths
occur in people
years
of age
or older

Risk of hospitalization for pneumonia is 30 times higher

for long-term care residents than risk for adults living in the community

Shingles occur in:

1 in 3 adults

1 in 2 adults





Immunity declines
with age The body is more
susceptible to developing an
infectious disease and having
more serious sequelae when

Benefits of Vaccination in Older Adults

Decreased risk of hospitalization



Reduced exposure

to other pathogens, invasive treatments, and disruptions that come with acute care

Very effective formulations available to overcome age related decline in immunity

Recommended for staff & residents by the CDC

Challenges with Vaccinating in Long-Term Care

Organizational barries, including fostering a culture of immunization starting with leaders and administrators

members

Obtaining informed consent for vaccinations from residents and staff



Managing costs and optimizing billing for vaccines

4 Maintaining high levels of motivation among vaccine champions

Prioritized Strategies to Improve Immunization Rates

Increase
use of
mandatory
staff
vaccination
policies

Make vaccination condition of hire

Implement
mandatory
resident
vaccination
policies
across all
long-term
care settings

Create
financing
tip sheets
(eg, roster
billing, best
practices,
algorithims,
calculator of
outbreak costs)

Examine
tools and
resources
for opportunities
to weave
immunizations
into other
priorities for
post-acute and
long-term care
facilities

