



ADULT VACCINATION AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

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Multiemployer Funds Can Help Keep Working-Age Members Healthy, On The Job With Cost-Effective Steps

FOCUS ON ADULTS

NCCMP is pleased to announce the launch of the Adult Vaccination Awareness Campaign (ALL-VAX).

Under the Affordable Care Act, health plans will be required to provide a series of preventive care benefits starting in 2015.* The list of required screening, counseling and immunization services is intended to create a baseline of preventive care that should keep people healthier and help to lower overall health care costs. However, up-front costs are created for payers – including funds. The services must be provided to plan beneficiaries without co-pays, even if the beneficiary's deductible has not been met – although health plans can establish some conditions about how the mandated services are delivered.

Among the mandated services, immunizations against the major vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs) may provide the clearest opportunity to make

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HIGHLY COST-EFFECTIVE

“The choice our nation faces is... whether to pay more for the costs of treating cases of preventable disease, or less for preventing these diseases from occurring in the first place. The evidence to date indicates that adult immunization is highly cost-effective.”

*--National Vaccine Advisory Committee,
Department of Health and Human Services*

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a positive impact on participants' health and realize a positive return on a required expenditure. In many respects, vaccination is the “low-hanging fruit” of ACA in terms of a benefit that can drive disease prevention and help to lower costs.

Multiemployer funds cover millions of working-age adults, including many over age 50. Today, many older workers want or need to keep working till retirement age or later. **Helping raise awareness to stay current on CDC-recommended vaccinations makes sense to keep people healthy and on the job.**

Nationally, we do a pretty good job of vaccinating our children against the major vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs). But we are not doing as well with adults. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and other U.S. Government health agencies report that U.S. adult vaccination rates against major VPDs are unacceptably low,** and are urging health care payers and providers to educate adults about vaccination and take steps to help them get vaccinated.

Fears and misconceptions about vaccination persist.

Despite the amazing success of vaccines in preventing and reducing terrible diseases in the USA and developed world over the last century, misinformation and fear persist. In fact, adverse reactions to vaccination are extremely rare.

United for Healthy Living will help multiemployer funds optimize the use of resources for significant challenges facing the beneficiary population, adding the **Adult Vaccination Awareness Campaign** to our ongoing effort through **United Against Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease.**

Preventive services will help keep fund participants healthy and be cost-effective *only if people know about and use them correctly.* Funds should encourage participants to ask their health care providers if they are up-to-date on their vaccinations, and should explain any restrictions that are placed on reimbursement for vaccinations.

“Routine assessment of adult patient vaccination needs, recommendation and offer of needed vaccinations for adults should be incorporated into routine clinical care of adults. The adult immunization schedule, updated annually, provides current recommendations for vaccinating adults and a ready resource for persons who provide health care services for adults in various settings.”

--U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

DON'T WAIT – VACCINATE!

* <https://www.healthcare.gov/what-are-my-preventive-care-benefits/>

** <https://aafp.org/news/health-of-the-public/20130411herpeszostervacc.html>

ALL-VAX provides multiemployer funds with tools to help raise awareness about the benefits of adult immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases. Go to www.ALL-VAX.org. ALL-VAX is part of NCCMP's UNITED FOR HEALTHY LIVING CAMPAIGN.

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