

## **Ways to Improve Geriatric Immunization Rates for Pneumococcal and Influenza Vaccines**

1. Recommend these vaccines to patients.
2. Enter any immunization history elicited from the patient into the CareWeb Immunization database. Enter refusals there also.
3. Check each patient's CareWeb Immunizations record during all appointments. Check the PSL Health Maintenance section for items to be entered into CareWeb Immunizations (They were not an Immunization download).
4. Make a flyer with a preventive care schedule that includes immunizations. Mail or hand it to patients.
5. Educate health care staff on the importance of immunizations to prevent illnesses.
6. Educate patients via brochures in waiting areas or hand them an information sheet.
7. Call patients to come in for the vaccine (reminder). A telephone call improves patient understanding and gives the opportunity to make the appointment.
8. Send a letter to patients to come in for the vaccines (reminder).
9. Designate a time to always discuss immunizations with patients, physical, i.e. health maintenance exams.
10. Remind patients that Medicare covers the cost of the pneumococcal and influenza vaccines.
11. Use standing orders for immunization visits and for flu shot clinics.
12. Expand access for patients by different settings (at the Senior Center), "drop-in" services or "express lane" vaccination services.

### U.S. Healthy People 2010 Objectives:

- Increase influenza vaccination rates to 90% of people aged 65 years and older
- Increase pneumococcal vaccination rates to 90% of people aged 65 years and older