NDHHS Immunization Program

• Who We Are
  • Division of Public Health
  • Team consists of 5 nurses, support staff, surveillance/epi, IT support, and a CDC field assignee

• What We Do
  • Ensure access to vaccines
  • Safeguard vaccine resource
Who We Serve

• Participating providers – both private and public
  Enrolled clinics include: LHD, CAP, FQHC, RHC, hospital-based, correctional facilities, etc.

• Eligible populations
  VFC – children up to 19 years of age
    uninsured and underinsured
    Medicaid-eligible
    American Indian/Alaskan Native

  Adult – 19 and older
    uninsured
    underinsured
Underinsured status means the patient has health insurance, but it won’t cover the vaccine(s) because:

- It doesn’t cover any vaccines
- It doesn’t cover certain vaccines

Patients with high-deductible plans – those with a large cost to the patient before a benefit begins – are not considered underinsured.

Underinsured patients can only be seen in Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Rural Health Clinics (RHCs), or Deputized clinics.
VFC/Adult

- Vaccines for Children (VFC)
  - 289 clinics enrolled in 2015
  - Follow ACIP recommendations for vaccine

- Adult Vaccine Program
  - Program began in June 2014
  - 40 clinics enrolled in 2015
  - Follow ACIP recommendations for vaccine – as funding allows

- $17,250,737 worth of vaccine distributed in state FY14
Who Can Enroll?

• **VFC Program**
  • Private clinics
    • May or may not take “new patients”
    • Keep patients in their medical home
  • Public clinics
    • serve all clients (walk-ins), though may require an appointment
    • sponsoring physician may be offsite, “standing orders”
    • fill gaps in healthcare coverage, a communities “safety net”

• **Adult Immunization Program**
  • Public Clinics only
  • Current VFC providers
How Does a Clinic Enroll?

Contact NDHHS Immunization Program VFC Coordinator
- Discuss requirements
- Enrollment forms – detail population served (age ranges, insurance status, etc)
- Site visit prior to ordering, monitor temperatures in unit
Benefits of Participation

Vaccine at no charge to clinic for use in eligible patients

- Enrollment forms impact ordering
- Vaccine ordered using the Nebraska State Immunization Information System (NESIIS)
- Vaccine delivered directly to the clinic (usually via Fed Ex)
  - Based on delivery dates/times listed in enrollment forms
  - Often within a week
Benefits of Participation

AFIX assessment
- Assessment, Feedback, Incentive and eXchange
- Quality Improvement process
  - Determine coverage rates
    - Identify number of children considered “up to date”
    - Identify children who received invalid doses or are delayed in schedule
  - Identify problem areas
  - Discuss processes to improve (i.e. reminder/recall) rates

**Goal is to make sure every child is appropriately vaccinated**
Benefits of Participation

Donations/Billing

- Clinic can charge a vaccine administration fee, or ask for a donation
  - Cannot turn a patient away for inability to pay
  - Cannot refer a patient to collections
- If billing Medicaid, can get reimbursed for the administration fee
Vaccine Storage and Handling

- Type of unit used to store vaccine, i.e. no dorm-style
- Thermometer used and placement in unit
  - Probe cannot be on side of unit
  - Vaccine placement in unit
- Regular temperature monitoring
  - check temperatures 2x each day
  - Log information on sheet
- Do not draw up vaccine too early

**Goal is to prevent spoiling or wastage**
Requirements of Program

Annual Site Visit

• Five nurses cover the state
• Site visit ensures compliance with program requirements
  • Work through questionnaire
  • Look at items such as checking patient eligibility, vaccine storage and handling, documentation of vaccine administration and giving Vaccine Information Statements
• Offers technical assistance
Requirements of Program

Trained staff
- Requirement to have a primary VFC Coordinator and a backup
- Annual training required for staff

Regular reporting – often through NESIIS
- Monthly reports (transaction summary)
- Reports as needed (i.e. wastage, returns, etc)
- Ordering capability can be suspended if reporting is not current

Public clinics must use NESIIS for ordering, reports, and tracking vaccine usage
Sub Awards
- Competitive process
- Issued 26 sub awards to public clinics across the state

Media Questions – exemptions
- State law requires vaccination for school entry
- Medical and Religious exemptions allowed
- Measles in the media

Outbreak Response
- Partner with local organizations for response
- Distribute vaccine as needed, i.e. pertussis outbreak late 2014
Looking ahead

- Coming soon – digital data logger project
  - Researching models, possible pilot
  - Will purchase for use in enrolled clinics – slow roll-out

- Increasing HPV Rates
  - Currently HPV coverage lags behind Tdap and Meningococcal coverage
  - Cancer prevention
  - Physician hesitancy

- Gardasil 9
Nebraska State Immunization Information System (NESIIS) Update
What is NESIIS?

• Secure, statewide, web-based system that’s been developed to connect and share immunization information across the state of Nebraska

• Current system launched in March, 2008

• Currently contains over 12,822,959 immunizations on over 1,647,442 clients

• Is capable of uni-directional and bi-directional data exchange

• Currently accepting data from over 620 facilities/clinics (429 electronically)

• Interfaces with NeHII to accept immunization records (not required)
What does NESIIS do?

- Records immunizations, contraindications, and reactions
- Validates immunization history and provides immunization recommendations
- Produces reminder/recall notices
- Produces vaccine usage and client reports
- Produces Clinic Assessment Software Application (CASA) extracts
- Manages Vaccine Inventory
- Produces reports (Assessment Report & Benchmark) to assess immunization rates (based off of ACIP), missed opportunities, and specific age benchmarks
Why do we use NESIIS?

• #1 purpose is to capture complete immunization records in order to:
  • Reduce staff time needed to obtain scattered records
  • Reduce expenses and risk incurred by administering duplicate imms
  • Reduce missed vaccination opportunities
  • Reduce staff time needed to forecast doses
  • Prevent vaccine waste
How does the Imm Program use NESIIS?

- for all VFC vaccine orders (started in December, 2013)
- track all VFC doses administered
- for CoCASA/Immunization assessments
- Monthly VFC reporting
- Vaccine projections
- Public Imm Clinic attendance
- Inventory Management
DHHS Uses NESIIS to:

- Verify/calculate:
  - immunization rates in NE
  - immunization rates in outbreak areas
  - uptake on new vaccines
  - compliance to statutory vaccination requirements
Who can access NESIIS?

- Healthcare providers across the state
- School nurses/representatives (look-up)
- HMO’s (look-up)
- Universities and Secondary Educational facilities
- Pharmacies
- Correctional facilities
- Etc.
How can you report to NESIIS?

- You can manually use NESIIS in your facility via direct data entry (not MU compliant)
- You can work with NDHHS to electronically send information to NESIIS, or
- If your facility is participating in NeHII we can work to get your information through them via electronic data exchange
- No charges or fees to use or send data to NESIIS
- Register your intent at: http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/epi/pages/ MeaningfulUSE.aspx
Meaningful Use

And the Nebraska State Immunization Information System (NESIIS)
DHHS MU Readiness:

- Immunization, ELR, and Syndromic: currently enrolling Hospitals and providers and accepting DX data
- Cancer: currently installing and upgrading software to testing Pathology and physician reporting
- Other specialized registries: still determining what those may be for NE
To begin Meaningful Use (MU) attestation with the three NDHHS registries, the following steps must be followed.

1) Visit the NDHHS MU website:
   - [http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/epi/pages/meaningfuluse.aspx](http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/epi/pages/meaningfuluse.aspx)

2) Complete the NDHHS MU registration survey online:
   - [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/meaningful_use_testing_registration_form](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/meaningful_use_testing_registration_form)
   - You can also view a .pdf of the survey prior to filling it out.
Registration Process (cont’d):

- **3)** Registration form is reviewed for completeness/accuracy
  - Provider will be contacted with questions/additional information

- **4)** Acknowledgement is emailed to registration contacts

- **5)** Registration information sent to NDHHS registry contacts for onboarding of provider

- **6)** NDHHS registry contacts will contact provider to begin onboarding shortly after receiving registration information
Additional information on exchanging Immunization, ELR, and Syndromic Data with NDHHS can be found at: http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/epi/pages/MeaningfulUSE.aspx