

Moving Needles Project Newsletter



! PROJECT UPDATES : WHAT'S NEW WITH MOVING NEEDLES

Welcome to the first edition of the Moving Needles newsletter! We're thrilled with what has come together over these last few months, and look forward to sharing new information each quarter to provide you with updates on the project, share practical implementation tips, and so much more.

Since our cooperative agreement was awarded in September 2021, we have engaged our pilot chains, sites, and teams. Participating in the first round of the pilot are University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Senior Communities, ALG Senior, and Saber Healthcare Group. Each chain has identified three facilities to participate in the project.

Over the next year, the sites will implement one intervention to improve resident immunization rates and one intervention to improve staff immunization rates. (See our video to learn more about the evidence-based interventions <https://vimeo.com/725124006/67644b3680>). They will submit monthly data and participate in groups calls and individual check-ins.

In addition to setting up the pilot project, staff have also initiated a cost benefit analysis and discussion with electronic health record companies to build system supports for the pilot.

We look forward to sharing more about the project in our next newsletter!

PILOT SITE SPOTLIGHT

- **Name:** UPMC Senior Communities - Heritage Place
- **Type of Facility:** Skilled Nursing Facility
- **Number of Beds:** 143
- **Total Number of Employees:** 122
- **Location:** Pittsburgh, PA
- **Staff Intervention Chosen:** Offer Vaccines On Site at No Cost through monthly COVID-19 vaccine clinics and a flu clinic in the fall. Also, Address Concerns with education and follow-up.
- **Resident Intervention Chosen:** Adopt Standard Operating Procedures with the Infection Preventionist assessing residents at admission and reminders as immunizations become due; host monthly COVID-19 vaccine clinics, and a flu clinic in the fall.
- **What Makes Your Facility Great:** "We have an excellent team developed to work together to improve the vaccination rates for both residents and staff as an indicator of our commitment to provide a safe care environment for everyone." - Jeanine Weiss

Improving Adult Immunization Rates in Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Settings

As of July 2021, COVID-19 vaccination shows that, on average:

81.8% of PALTC residents are vaccinated
59.3% of PALTC staff are vaccinated

Vision

Moving Needles, a 5-year cooperative agreement between AMDA and the CDC, will make routine adult immunization a standard of care for post-acute and long-term care residents and an expectation for staff. Working with pilot sites from nursing homes, assisted living, and home and community based services, we will test strategies using a quality improvement intervention to improve immunization rates.



Do You Know Your Recommended Vaccines?

On June 30th, 2022, the CDC updated its recommendations for seasonal influenza vaccines for adults 65 years and older to state a preference for the use of enhanced flu vaccines for adults 65 and older, including higher dose and adjuvanted flu vaccines. If one of these vaccines is not available at the time of administration, people in this age group should get a standard-dose flu vaccine. This recommendation was based on a review of available studies which suggest that, for ages 65 and older, these vaccines are more effective than standard dose flu vaccines.

People 65 years and older have an increased risk of severe flu-associated illness, hospitalization, and death compared with younger populations. A Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) will provide further details upon its release later this summer.

Featured Resource

TITLE

Champion Training Videos

American College of Physicians



DESCRIPTION

Series of videos and downloadable PowerPoints from I Raise the Rates Champions

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

Champions are an evidence-based way to improve immunization rates. Providing passionate staff with training helps them be most effective.

HOW TO ACCESS

<https://www.acponline.org/clinical-information/clinical-resources-products/adult-immunization/i-raise-the-rates/champion-training-videos-new-orleans-2015>

GET IN TOUCH

To be added to the newsletter distribution list or request more information about the project, contact:
movingneedles@paltc.org

TIPS & TIDBITS

In our July pilot site group call, Barbara Resnick, PhD, CRNP, FAAN, FAANP, spoke about her experience with champions in long-term care and shared tips on how to support clinical staff members as champions:

- Identify a champion, or a few champions on different shifts and units
- Gather an interprofessional team and determine goals
- Discuss barriers/challenges to reaching specific goals
- Brainstorm and provide solutions to challenges
- Be persistent—change takes time!
- Believe in yourself and the team
- Make it happen...even small steps in the right direction are worth celebrating!

Having dedicated champions is an evidence-based way to improve immunization rates. These leaders can focus on logistics, addressing hesitancy among staff and residents, or other aspects of immunizing in a facility. Whatever they do, the activities should be listed in their job description.

For more resources on developing champions, check out the Moving Needles website and navigate to “Resources to Improve Resident Immunization Rates” for lots of great tips!



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