



Practice Prevention!

Improving Healthcare in New Jersey

January 2010

Watch for your monthly Prevention updates

Reminder

Immunizations for Patients and Providers

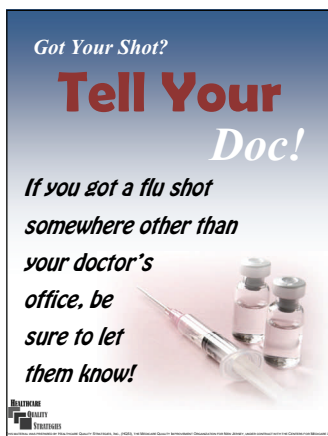
This is the time of year when the risk for flu and pneumonia increase, so it is important for all of us to take the proper precautions to safeguard against these

vaccine-preventable diseases. Due to concerns about the H1N1 virus (swine flu) and the influenza vaccine shortage, the 2009-2010 flu season has become challenging for physicians.

With a continued active flu season, physicians are advised to take steps to reduce the likelihood that staff will log increased sick time. You can do so by

providing seasonal flu shots to staff members, as well as their spouses and children. Furthermore, some experts are advocating cross-training employees so staff can cover for each other in the event of illness. Alcohol-based hand washing should be encouraged among staff to prevent the spread of the illness.

Free resources are available to physicians and healthcare providers to distribute information to patients and the public about the different types of influenza, immunization recommendations, and flu vaccine availability and to allay fears about serious vaccine reactions. Postings within the office should educate patients about respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers a variety of free materials, many in English and Spanish. Free resources, including posters, flyers, brochures, videos, podcasts, and e-cards are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/flugallery/index.htm> (accessed 1/7/10).



Prevention Update

Improving Healthcare Throughout New Jersey

Since August 2008, quality improvement organizations (QIOs) across the nation have been working with a select number of physician offices that have existing electronic health record (EHR) systems to improve the delivery and documentation of preventive health services for people with Medicare. The DOQ-IT *Prevention Project* is focusing on increasing utilization of mammography and colorectal cancer screenings and influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations.

In New Jersey, Healthcare Quality Strategies, Inc.'s (HQSI's) Prevention Team has been providing on-site education and consultations, workflow redesign, team building, and process improvement training to participating physician practices like yours to help optimize the use of EHR systems. In turn, practices have implemented care management processes using their EHRs, have completed training on improving the care each practice provides, and have been electronically generating and reporting their data on their cancer screening and immunization rates.

By assisting participating physician offices to optimize the use of their EHR systems, HQSI is continuing to improve the cancer screening (colorectal cancer and mammography) and immunization (influenza and

pneumococcal) rates in New Jersey. Through working with HQSI's Healthcare Information Management Advisors, participating practices have the opportunity to move their practices forward to:

- Increase and strengthen their documentation of clinical encounters
- Improve capabilities to track patient preventive services
- Prepare for federal incentive programs by using health information technology (HIT) to improve and document care management
- Positively begin to position their practices to meet "meaningful use" criteria

**JANUARY 2010
NATIONAL HEALTH OBSERVANCES**

Cervical Health Awareness Month

Thyroid Awareness Month

Glaucoma Awareness Month

PQRI and e-Prescribing News

Medicare Fact Sheet: Changes to Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) and e-Prescribing Incentive Programs (October 30, 2009)

PQRI Initiative

For calendar year (CY) 2010, participants may earn an incentive payment of 2.0% of the eligible professional's (EP's) estimated total allowed charges for Medicare Part B-covered professional services provided during the reporting period. For CY 2010 PQRI, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is offering additional reporting options and reporting periods. Some options require data on quality measures to be submitted by December 31, 2010. However, EPs who submit data through registries will not be required to submit data on quality measures until 2011.



e-Prescribing Initiative

The Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA) established a five-year program of incentive payments to EPs who are "successful electronic prescribers," as defined by the statute. Beginning in 2012, the program will impose penalties on EPs who are not successful in meeting the criteria. The reporting period for the e-Prescribing Incentive Program for 2010 will be the

entire calendar year, and incentives will be paid based on the covered professional services furnished by an EP during the reporting year. (For more information visit: http://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/media/fact_sheets.asp [accessed 1/7/10])

Medicare Learning Network (MLN) Articles on the 2009 PQRI

These new and revised MLN articles will assist eligible professionals and group practices that report PQRI quality measures data to Medicare.

- MM6514: Transmittal # R5130TN. *Coding and Reporting Principles for the PQRI and the Electronic Prescribing (E-Prescribing) Incentive Programs:* <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6514.pdf> (accessed 1/7/10)
- SE0922: *Alternative Process for Individual Eligible Professionals to Access Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) and Electronic Prescribing (E- Prescribing) Feedback Reports:* <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0922.pdf> (accessed 1/7/10)

Educational Opportunities

Web-based Training Course

A web-based training course, *Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) and Electronic Prescribing Incentive Program (e- Prescribing)* (September 2009) is now available from CMS' Medicare Learning Network (MLN).

Sixty minutes in length, the course provides information to physicians, healthcare professionals, and medical administrative staff on the completion, submission, and maintenance of the documentation required to successfully participate in PQRI and the e-prescribing programs. This course offers continuing education credits for the International Association for Continuing Education

and Training (IACET), the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), and the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC).

For information on the course, visit the MLN webpage at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNEdWebGuide/> (accessed 1/7/10)

- Select from the listing, Web Based Training (WBT) Modules
- From the list of modules, select The Physician Quality Reporting Initiative and Electronic Prescribing Incentive Program WBT



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Remind Your Patients -
Don't Get the Flu ... Get Vaccinated!



THIS MATERIAL WAS PREPARED BY HEALTHCARE QUALITY STRATEGIES, INC., (HQSI), THE MEDICARE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ORGANIZATION FOR NEW JERSEY, UNDER CONTRACT WITH THE CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES (CMS), AN AGENCY OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES. THE CONTENTS PRESENTED DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT CMS POLICY. 9TH SOW-NJ-6.3-10-01(a)

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Please forward or share this newsletter with those in your organization who may benefit from the information!

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To access this newsletter and links electronically, visit <http://www.hqsi.org>