



Vaccine Policy Collaborative Initiative

Project Information Sheet – January 2008

Project Overview

The Vaccine Policy Collaborative Initiative is a project designed to survey providers and public health officials about important issues relevant to national immunization policy, using a rapid turnaround survey method with a pre-recruited Sentinel Site Network. It is directed by Dr. Allison Kempe in the Children's Outcomes Research Center at the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center, and is conducted by a multidisciplinary team with experience and expertise in rapidly designing, conducting and analyzing surveys. The study team is well-equipped to conduct quantitative or qualitative surveys using telephone, mail, e-mail, mixed modality, focus group or other face-to-face interview methodologies.

Collaborators

In collaboration with the study team, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention is instrumental in the design of the objectives, methods and instruments for each survey. The AMC Survey Methods Core assists with administering the surveys.

Sentinel Sites

Currently three Sentinel Site Networks are up and running in pediatrics, general internal medicine and family medicine. Physicians were randomly recruited through their professional organization membership file and designed to represent four geographic regions, three practice settings and three practice types. The four geographic regions include Northeast, Midwest, South and West; the three practice settings include urban inner city, urban not inner city or suburban, and rural; and the three practice types include private, public or hospital-based clinic, and HMO. Each network includes approximately 425 physicians.

Advisory Committees

Three advisory committees from each primary care setting guide the study team with each survey. The function of the advisory committees is to advise the investigators regarding policy-relevant issues from their perspective, to discuss optimal ways to access providers, and to pilot survey questions and methods. The committees have representation from different states around the country including: California, Colorado, Texas, New York, Florida and another southern state.

Surveys to Date

To date, nine surveys have been completed and one is currently being conducted:

1. *2004-05 Flu Vaccine Shortage*: In March 2005, all three networks were surveyed to find out the impact of influenza vaccine shortages on both adult and pediatric medical practices in 2004-05.
2. *Pneumococcal*: In August 2005, internal medicine physicians were asked about their understanding and practices regarding recommendations for administration of pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (Pneumovax 23,) and possible changes to the recommended schedule for this vaccine.
3. *Human Papillomavirus (HPV)*: The recently released HPV vaccine is recommended for adolescent females age 11-12 years old. A survey of pediatricians, conducted in September 2005, asked about their

comfort with recommending the vaccine and expected barriers to parents' acceptance of the vaccine for their children.

4. *Herpes Zoster*: Another new vaccine is under development – one that prevents herpes zoster (also known as shingles). This is an infection caused by the same virus as chicken pox, and usually occurs in older adults. A survey, conducted in November 2005, explored family medicine and internal medicine physicians' experiences treating herpes zoster, and their opinions about the need for this vaccine and use of it in their own practices.
5. *2005-06 Flu Vaccine Shortage*: In November 2005, the CDC received numerous reports about problems with ordering or receiving influenza vaccine in a timely manner for the 2005-06 season. To better clarify the origin and extent of the problem, a quick 6-question survey was conducted with pediatricians and internal medicine physicians that were willing to take surveys via the internet.
6. *Rotavirus*: In January 2006, pediatricians were surveyed about their perceptions regarding the burden of rotavirus disease and need for vaccine, and intentions for recommending a newly licensed rotavirus vaccine as well as factors associated with plans for a vaccine adoption.
7. *Hepatitis B*: In August 2006, a survey was conducted with internal medicine and family medicine physicians regarding Hepatitis B vaccination in adults.
8. *2005-06 Flu Vaccine Shortage*: In March 2007, a survey was administered to pediatricians, internal medicine physicians and family medicine physicians to find out about their experiences delivering influenza vaccination during the 2006-2007 influenza season.
9. *Rotavirus #2*: In August 2007, a survey was conducted to examine the attitudes of pediatricians and family physicians about the recently licensed rotavirus vaccine.
10. *HPV #2*: Currently a survey is being conducted to learn about the attitudes and current practices of primary care physicians regarding human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination.

Study Team:

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Matthew Daley, MD, <i>Co-Investigator</i>	Miriam Dickinson, PhD, <i>Biostatistician</i>
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John Steiner, MD, MPH, <i>Internal Medicine Liaison</i>	Christine Babbel, MSPH, <i>Project Coordinator</i>
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