BE A FLU-FIGHTER

HELP YOUR ELIGIBLE PATIENTS UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF VACCINATION

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working for prevention

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Vaccination is a key strategy for prevention

Yearly flu vaccination has been shown to help reduce flu-related illnesses and the risk of serious flu complications.[1]

The CDC advises annual flu vaccination for all eligible individuals 18 years and older and recommends shared clinical decision-making for pediatric patients 6 months and older.[2]

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends flu vaccination for all children 6 months and older without medical contraindications.[3]

Prioritize Vaccination for High-Risk Patients:[4]

Identify high-risk patients susceptible to complications from the flu, including people who:

- are **5 years** of age or younger.
- are **aged 65** and above.
- have chronic conditions (like asthma, diabetes, or heart disease).

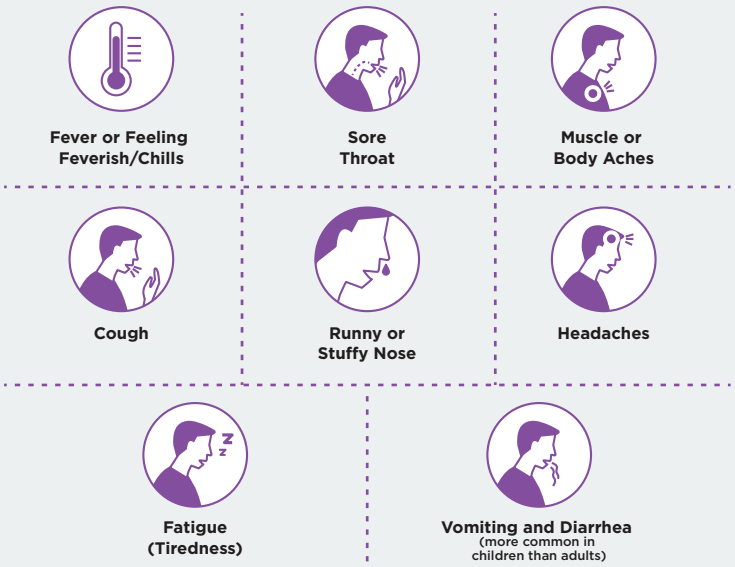
If you do not offer vaccination at your facility, provide an influenza vaccine referral. Follow up with your patient to ensure they get vaccinated.

Between **70%** and **85%** of seasonal flu-related deaths occurred in those aged 65 and older, and **50%** to **70%** of seasonal flu hospitalizations have occurred in this age group.[1]

More Ways to Help Protect Patients:

- Provide patients with additional resources that underscore risks of flu illness and the benefits of flu vaccination.
- Collaborate with local health departments and nonprofit advocacy organizations to promote flu vaccines for at-risk individuals and the community as a whole.

Common Symptoms of the Flu:[5]



How to Address Common Patient Misconceptions

- → Share why vaccination may be right for your patient given their age, health status, lifestyle, occupation, or other risk factors.[6]
- → Educate patients that the flu is a highly prevalent infectious disease that spreads easily.[7]
- → Remind eligible patients that vaccination can help protect them and their loved ones against serious influenza illness and complications.[6]
- → Acknowledge that some people who get a flu vaccine still get sick, but vaccination can make illness less severe. Side effects are generally mild, compared to flu symptoms.[8]

References:

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