

Dear VFA Program Participant,

Now that flu season is here, flu vaccination visits to your clinic represent a critical opportunity to assess patients for other needed vaccines. A patient may rarely otherwise visit the clinic, as many do not come in for routine visits or annual check-ups, or a patient may not be up to date with the latest vaccine recommendations for their age, health condition, occupation, or lifestyle.

Here are some simple but effective ways of incorporating vaccine assessment into clinic work flow:

1. **Implement** protocols that help streamline practice workflow and optimize immunization administration opportunities during busy flu vaccination clinics. Discuss these protocols during staff meetings and make changes as needed.
2. **Utilize your Electronic Health Record (EHR) system or immunization registry to generate reports of patients coming in for flu vaccines (or other visits) who may need other vaccines.** For example, you may decide to generate a report of all [patients with chronic conditions](#) that may need a specific vaccine such as the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine.
3. **Send patients reminders about vaccines that are overdue or soon to be due.** You may also consider reminding them of needed vaccines during appointment reminder calls.
4. **Give all of your patients a [vaccination questionnaire](#) to fill out upon check-in.** This form can be used by the provider to assess the patient's immunization needs and prompt discussion of any recommended vaccines. You may also wish to provide patients with a [flyer](#) (upon check-in or prior to their appointment) that provides an overview of recommended vaccines to educate and further encourage dialogue.
5. **Incorporate provider reminders into your EHR system or patient records** to avoid missing opportunities to immunize patients while they are at the clinic. Talk to your IT or EHR representative about incorporating vaccine reminders.

Meet with your staff, providers, and management to determine and implement a proactive vaccination strategy that meets the unique needs of your clinic this flu season!