

Title of Intervention: Immunization Reminder Cards from a Rural Community Health Center

Intervention Strategies: Individual Education, Environments and Policies

Purpose of the Intervention: To determine whether the use of patient reminder cards and a simple office-based intervention to decrease missed opportunities would improve the number of children up-to-date with recommended immunizations in a low-income, rural and Latino population

Population: Latino children with low socioeconomic status

Setting: Salud Family Health Center in rural, Northeast Colorado; health care facility-based

Partners: None mentioned

Intervention Description:

- Campaigns and Promotions: Posters were placed in the examination room to remind patients to immunize their children.
- Individual Education: Up to 3 reminder cards were sent to patients in their primary language. The cards included an introduction from the clinic and specified the type and number of vaccines that the child did not appear to have.
- Environments and Policies: The reminder cards invited the family to bring the child to the clinic and present the card to the staff, which would serve as a physician order for the nursing staff to give the immunization. Patients presenting with cards would receive the immunizations without a physician visit.

Theory: Not mentioned

Resources Required:

- Staff/Volunteers: Health care providers
- Training: Not mentioned
- Technology: Not mentioned
- Space: Examination rooms
- Budget: Not mentioned
- Intervention: Clinic, health care providers, materials for reminder cards, materials for posters, vaccines
- Evaluation: Not mentioned

Evaluation:

- Design: Case study, pre-/post-test
- Methods and Measures:
 - Immunization rates were tracked.
 - Missed opportunities per child-month were measured.

Outcomes:

- Short term Impact: Not measured
- Long Term Impact: Reminder cards successfully increased up-to-date immunization rates.

Maintenance: Not mentioned

Lessons Learned: More work is needed to identify low-cost, effective strategies to eliminate missed opportunities that are easy to implement in busy outpatient settings.

Citation(s): Hicks, P., G. A. Tarr, et al. (2007). "Reminder cards and immunization rates among Latinos and the rural poor in Northeast Colorado." J Am Board Fam Med 20(6): 581-6.