



Remind Patients to Get Influenza Vaccination

Oct. 28, 2021

Every year, our members receive the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®) survey to collect information about their health care experiences. One of the questions asked on the survey is, **“Have you had either a flu shot or flu spray in the nose since July 1 of the previous year?”**

As this year’s flu season approaches, it’s important to ask our members if they, and their children 6 months of age and older, received a flu shot this year. If they haven’t, we encourage you to explain the benefits and work on a plan to help them get one.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), seasonal flu is a serious disease that causes millions of illnesses, hundreds of thousands of hospitalizations, and tens of thousands of deaths every year in the U.S.¹ The CDC encourages you to remind your patients of the following benefits:²

- ▶ Flu vaccination can keep you from getting sick with flu.
- ▶ Flu vaccination can reduce the risk of flu-associated hospitalization for children, working age adults, and older adults.
- ▶ Flu vaccination is an important preventive tool for people with chronic health conditions.
- ▶ Flu vaccination helps protect women during and after pregnancy.
- ▶ Flu vaccination has been shown in several studies to reduce severity of illness in people who get vaccinated but still get sick.
- ▶ Getting vaccinated yourself may also help protect people around you.

Resources

- ▶ [BCBSTX Quality Improvement tip sheets](#)
- ▶ [BCBSTX Preventive Care Guidelines](#)
- ▶ [BCBSTX Clinical Practice Guidelines](#)
- ▶ [Texas Health Steps for Medical Providers](#)[☒], which includes all current vaccine schedules, the [ImmTrac2](#)[☒] Texas Immunization Registry and other important guidance for treating members.


¹ CDC, Why CDC Estimates the Burden of Season Influenza in the U.S., Oct. 25, 2018.
<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/burden/why-cdc-estimates.htm> [☒]

² CDC, What are the benefits of flu vaccination? June 8, 2021.
<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/vaccine-benefits.htm> [☒]

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