



Press Release

7272 Wisconsin Avenue
Bethesda, Maryland 20814
301-664-8875

CONTACT: Shana Martin
ASHP Advantage
PHONE: 850-279-3138 E-MAIL: smartin@ashpadvantage.com
WEB: www.ashpadvantage.com

ADV2012-2

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

ASHP Launches Educational Initiative to Improve Adult Immunization Rates in Hospitals

Mentoring program and educational activities encourage a team approach to “Take Charge! Screen and Immunize before Discharge”

BETHESDA, MD, June 7, 2012 – ASHP Advantage is conducting a tiered, interprofessional educational initiative to provide practitioners with timely education and tools to improve hospitalized adult immunization rates and patient care. Activities and tools were developed by a multidisciplinary steering committee of experts in adult immunization.

More than 50,000 adults in the United States die from vaccine-preventable diseases or their complications each year. Despite the availability of vaccines, many adults remain unimmunized because they are unaware of the need for adult immunizations or are misinformed about vaccines and the diseases they are designed to prevent. Too often, patients are discharged without appropriate screening and immunization.

The initiative web portal, www.immunizeadults.org, serves as a one-stop resource for tools and strategies to improve adult immunization rates at hospitals. Recognizing that a team approach is essential to successful immunization programs, continuing education is offered for physicians, physician assistants, pharmacists, nurses, and nurse practitioners. Available activities include

- Mentored Adult Immunization Impact Program through which physician and pharmacist faculty will mentor teams in selected health systems in their efforts to improve adult immunization of hospitalized patients. Application deadline is June 19, 2012.
- Online Tool Kit featuring presentation for the C-suite for making the case, sample policy and procedures, patient screening tool, standing orders, checklists, patient and staff education materials, pearls for overcoming barriers, and helpful links. Many tools are customizable.
- CE Discussion Guide focusing on the essentials of adult immunization.
- Expert interviews available as podcasts plus e-Newsletters featuring practice pearls for improving immunization rates of adult inpatients.
- Live CE webinars and on-demand CE activities featuring success stories in adult immunization.
- Opportunity to sign up to be an Immunization Advocate and be notified as new activities and resources are available.

The initiative, featured at www.immunizeadults.org, is supported by an educational grant from Pfizer, Inc.

-###-

About ASHP Advantage



Press Release

7272 Wisconsin Avenue
Bethesda, Maryland 20814
301-664-8875

Launched in 1995, ASHP Advantage specializes in developing customized educational activities to address identified educational gaps. As a division of ASHP, ASHP Advantage staff members stay apprised of key issues and trends shaping pharmacy practice and health care today. With access to the vast resources of ASHP and its membership, ASHP Advantage designs quality programs and projects for health care professionals. For more information about the services of ASHP Advantage, visit www.ashpadvantage.com.

About ASHP

For more than 60 years, ASHP has helped pharmacists who practice in hospitals and health systems improve medication use and enhance patient safety. The Society's 35,000 members include pharmacists and pharmacy technicians who practice in inpatient, outpatient, home-care, and long-term-care settings, as well as pharmacy students. For more information about the wide array of ASHP activities and the many ways in which pharmacists help people make the best use of medicines, visit ASHP's Web site, www.ashp.org, or its consumer Web site, www.SafeMedication.com.

-END