



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

ASHP Announces Selection of Participants in Hospitalized Adult Immunization Mentoring Program

BETHESDA, MD, September 25, 2012 – ASHP Advantage, a division of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, has selected 17 health systems to participate in a national Mentored Adult Immunization Impact Program. The participating sites were selected through a competitive application process and were required to assemble a team of committed health care professionals. Participation in this initiative demonstrates the commitment of their health systems to patients and continuous quality improvement by putting focus on improving immunization rates of adult hospitalized patients.

As part of the initiative, pharmacist and physician experts in adult immunization will work with approximately 140 practitioners at participating health systems to evaluate practices and provide specific recommendations to improve immunization rates in adult hospitalized patients.

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 unvaccinated because they are unaware of the need for adult vaccines or are misinformed about vaccines and the diseases they are designed to prevent.

The selected sites and team leaders are as follows:

Bronson Methodist Hospital

Kalamazoo, Michigan
Jim Curtis, Pharm.D., BCPS

Grady Memorial Hospital

Atlanta, Georgia
Karen Chocho, M.P.H.

Iowa Health Des Moines - IMMC, ILH and Methodist West

Des Moines, Iowa
Brian D. Benson, Pharm.D.

Jewish Hospital of Cincinnati

Cincinnati, Ohio
Tricia Morris, Pharm.D., BCPS

King's Daughters Medical Center

Ashland, Kentucky
Leigh Ann Keeton, Pharm.D.

LSU Health – Shreveport



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Shreveport, Louisiana
Amy R. Kerkemeyer, Pharm.D.

Morristown Medical Center
Morristown, New Jersey
Mena Abaskharoun, Pharm.D., BCPS, M.B.A.

North Shore Medical Center
Salem, Massachusetts
Monique Freeley, R.Ph.

Norwegian American Hospital
Chicago, Illinois
Charlene Hope, Pharm.D., BCPS

Providence St. Mary Medical Center
Walla Walla, Washington
Peggy Yam, Pharm.D., BCPS

Samaritan Regional Health System
Ashland, Ohio
Jeffrey Cook, Pharm.D., M.B.A.

St. John Health System
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Kari McCracken, Pharm.D.

St. John's Hospital
Springfield, Illinois
Colleen Sheehan, Pharm.D.

St. Vincent's Medical Center - Riverside and Southside
Jacksonville, Florida
Tanya Vadnais, B.S.N.

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Houston, Texas
Tami N. Johnson, Pharm.D., BCPS, FCCM

TIRR Memorial Hermann
Houston, Texas
Susan Loughlin, Pharm.D.

Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital
Yakima, Washington
Angela S. Stewart, Pharm.D., BCPS



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The Mentored Adult Immunization Impact Program is part of a series of interprofessional activities designed to improve immunization rates of adult hospitalized patients. The initiative was developed by a multidisciplinary educational steering committee comprised of experts in adult immunizations.

Additional activities in this initiative are featured at www.immunizeadults.org and include

- Online Tool Kit featuring a 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.

Recognizing that a team approach is essential to successful immunization programs, continuing education is offered for physicians, physician assistants, pharmacists, nurses, and nurse practitioners.

The initiative is supported by an educational grant from Pfizer, Inc.

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About ASHP Advantage

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

ASHP is the national professional organization whose nearly 40,000 members include pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy students who provide patient care services in hospitals, health systems, and ambulatory clinics. For 70 years, the Society has been on the forefront of efforts to improve medication use and enhance patient safety. 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 website, www.ashp.org, or its consumer website, www.safemedication.com.

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