



## Massachusetts Adult Immunization Coalition (MAIC) Meeting



**February 17, 2015: 2:00 – 4:00 pm**  
**Location: Massachusetts Medical Society**

### ATTENDEES

IN PERSON		
Last Name	First Name	Organization
Alie	Robyn	MA Medical Society
Blinn	Antonia	MA League of Community Health Centers
Hackbarth	Allison	JSI
Vanucci	Rebecca	MDPH
Patel	Shivang	Intern - Walgreens
Murray	Matthew	Intern - MA League of Community Health Centers
Godek	Michael	Walgreens
Soucy	Reno	GSK
Ragless	Betina	American Lung Association NE
Martel	Joanne	Andover BOH
Demers	Lenny	MedImmune
Schilb	Sherry	Sanofi Pasteur
Peacock	Seth	Sanofi Pasteur
McKenzie	Mary	Chelsea BOH, MAPHN
Gonyar	Deb	GSK
Demers	Lenny	MedImmune
Elliott	Deborah	Sanofi Pasteur
Valazzo	Jim	GSK
Frazier	Diane	Pfizer
WEBINAR/PHONE		
Preskul-Ricca	MaryAnn	Consultant
Miller	Dorothy	Merck
Laurence	Valerie	St. Mary's Healthcare
Lett	Susan	MDPH
Lisinski	Heather	JSI
Vescera	Debora	Harrington Memorial Hospital
DeMaria	Alfred	MDPH
Salvato	Karen	HPHC
Tibbetts	Brittany	Commonwealth Medicine/UMASS

# MINUTES

## **Update on Local Public Health Setting Vaccine Reimbursement – *Brittany Tibbets, Commonwealth Medicine***

- First payment for this season will go out at the end of March. It will be approximately \$300,000 from private insurers, and approximately \$200,000 from Medicare.
- Last year's total reimbursement was \$1.5 million last year; this year they are expecting \$1.5-1.7 million.
- The second payment will be approximately June 15, 2015.
- For 2016, the vaccine coverage will be the same as 2015. Some plans (or one plan) is still not covering high-dose flu vaccine. This is due to no preferential recommendation from the CDC for this vaccine.
- Commonwealth Medicine will continue to reach out to other payers to pursue their participation in the program.
- All local public providers that are participating in the reimbursement program are now part of the expanded program that covers all ACIP-recommended adult vaccines.
- There is a slow and steady trickle of submission of other adult vaccine claims (in addition to flu vaccine claims).
- Commonwealth Medicine is exploring options with MDPH to possibly connect to the MA Immunization Information System (MIIS).

## **Immunization Reports from the Field – *MAIC Members***

- Mary McKenzie noted several challenges of using the MA Immunization Information System (MIIS) including the lack of resources to enter vaccination data into the MIIS in the seven day timeframe (a requirement recently passed by the Public Health Council), of reconciling duplicate records, and of entering roster-based data.
- Joanne Martel from the Andover Board of Health noted that a large number of people from her town are covered by payers not participating in Commonwealth Medicine. She is continuing to administer adult vaccines even though she can't bill insurance for them. The MA Board of Pharmacy recently revised state policy to allow for adult vaccine administration by pharmacy interns under the supervision of a pharmacist provided they have gone through two years of pharmacy school and are certified in vaccine administration. This is effective as of April 8, 2015.
- Walgreens is in the process of creating health screening rooms. In MA, this applies to three Walgreens sites and will expand over time. Assessing vaccination coverage will be included as one of the services.
- MA League of Community Health Centers filed legislation to expand medical assistants ability to administer vaccines, and is partnering with the National Med Assistant Association and the Massachusetts Medical Assistant Association.

## **2015 MA Adult Immunization Conference – *Allison Hackbarth, JSI and Robyn Alie, MMS***

- The conference brochure is being disseminated and registration is live! The registration site is: <http://www.cvent.com/d/zrqmql>

- A new conference component this year is an afternoon plenary. The plenary topic is ‘When There Is No Vaccine: Lessons from the Ebola Response’. A panel of four speakers will look at Ebola in the US from the perspectives of risk communication/risk perception, infection control, occupational health and ethics.
- The call for abstracts is out, and the MA Adult Immunization Champions are featured in the brochure this year: Linda Barnet, Healthcare for the Homeless (Springfield) and the Fenway Community Health Vaccine Improvement Team (Boston).
- Opportunities are available for exhibiting, sponsoring, and donating.
- The conference venue has been changed to the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel in Marlborough. Parking is free.
- There are several other conferences during the same week that might affect attendance.
- Given the change in venue and conflicts with other events, the coalition is requesting any help that MAIC members can provide to promote the conference.

### **Conference promotion/outreach ideas**

#### **Members discussed ways to promote the program:**

- Promote to students and highlight the student registration fee of \$30. For example, UMass Medical School in Worcester, schools of nursing, and pharmacy schools.
- Create an email message that can be disseminated to your memberships and constituents.
- Create a tag for email signature lines.
- Several images will be sent out that can make it easy for MAIC members to post information on their websites, Facebook, add to emails, etc.
- Post on state Medical Reserve Corps website
- Reach out to professional partners that have the ability to reach a large number of people, for example, Masspro and MA Medical Society (MMS).
- Reach out to New England surrounding states, those that don’t have adult coalitions.
- Use the community health center networks.
- Robyn will share the conference blurb added to a recent MMS newsletter for others to adapt and utilize. Members were invited to share their strategies and tools as well.
- Highlight conference topics to reach new audiences
- Reach out to Marlborough area folks.

Members were encouraged to continue to share their ideas, and let Allison and Heather know if there are ways the coalition could help them to promote the program.

### **New MAIC Members**

1. DPH Office of Health Equity
2. Our Lady’s Haven
3. Community Health & Immunization Services
4. Town of Framingham Board of Health

## **Pneumococcal Vaccine / Measles / Flu Season / HPV9 – Susan Lett, MDPH**

### Pneumococcal vaccine

- PCV13 now recommended for all adults 65 years and older in series with PPSV23.
- Ideally a single dose of PCV13 should be given first followed by PPSV23 6-12 months later.
- Medicare covers pneumococcal vaccination under Part B.
- CMS has updated their Medicare coverage to align with ACIP, effective September 9, 2014 with an implementation date of February 2, 2015.
- Most private insurance covers pneumococcal vaccines.

### Pneumococcal vaccine resources

- More information from MDPH:  
<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/id/epidemiology/providers/information-about-pneumococcal-vaccination.html>
- Information also posted on the MAIC website at: <http://maic.isi.com>
- MLN Matters CMS News Letter (MM9051):  
<http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/MM9051.pdf>
- CMS regulations and guidance for claims processing: <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/2014-Transmittals-Items/R3159CP.html>

### Measles

- For the current national outbreak, there are 120 cases in US which includes 17 states and one other country. There are no confirmed cases in MA.
- The majority of cases are unvaccinated.
- Continue to be vigilant and make sure patients and staff are up to date.
- The MDPH Immunization Program can be reached at 617-983-6800. Cases diagnosed in Boston should be reported to the Boston Public Health Commission at 617-534-5611.

### Influenza

- Influenza activity is still elevated nationally with some severity indicators beginning to decrease.
- Influenza A H3N2 is the predominant strain and it has drifted during the season.
- Interim vaccine effectiveness estimates are overall ~23% across age groups
- This is a very severe year for hospitalizations, corresponds with A H3N2 strain; it is the highest ever recorded by CDC for older adults.
- For children, 40% of those hospitalized had no underlying condition. Just being a child is a risk factor.
- Since December 2014 CDC has been notified of diagnosed parotitis with lab-confirmed influenza in multiple states; parotitis is an uncommon complication of influenza.
- Providers are asked to report cases of lab-confirmed influenza with parotitis or symptoms compatible with parotitis with symptom onset on or after October 1, 2014
- Call MDPH at 617-983-6800 (Boston providers should call Boston Public Health Commission at 617-534-5611).
- Evidence suggests that antivirals underutilized.
- Vaccination should still be the most important first step in protecting against flu.
- Even a vaccine with low vaccine effectiveness can prevent some infections.

- This season, the use of neuraminidase inhibitor (NAI) antiviral medications is especially important when indicated for treatment and prevention of influenza.
- CDC asking providers to watch for high-risk patients and treat with antivirals immediately:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/professionals/antivirals/antivirals-protocol-flowchart.pdf>

#### HPV9 Vaccination

- HPV9 vaccine is now licensed with a 3-dose schedule.
- Continue to vaccinate with HPV4 and do not postpone vaccination until HPV9 is available. Avoiding missed opportunities is critical.
- At the February 2015 ACIP meeting, recommendations for HPV9 will be made.
- Manufacturer will make vaccine available in private sector in February, and public sector in April.
- HPV9 is projected to prevent 90% of HPV-related cancers
- HPV4 likely will continue to be available for 12-18 months after HPV9 licensed.

**Next Meeting – Tuesday, September 15, 2015, 1-3 pm, MA Medical Society**