

Improving Travel Vaccine Uptake Through Patient Awareness in a Community Pharmacy Setting

Practice Setting

- Pharmacists are an accessible source to administer immunizations, provide education about travel-related care and make referrals when appropriate.
- At two community pharmacies located in Columbus, Ohio.
- These pharmacies serve diverse patient populations
 - Include individuals planning international travel who may be unaware of recommended travel vaccines and related medications prior to departure

Sustainability

- Sustainability will be evaluated on the existing immunization workflow within the pharmacies
- Travel-related vaccines are billed through third-party insurance when covered, with cash-pay options available for non-covered services.
- The initiative focuses on increasing patient awareness of the service; the intervention can be maintained as part of routine pharmacy workflow.



Executive Summary

- A quasi-experimental project
- Adult patients ≥ 18 years old planning international travel within the next 0-6 months.
- Awareness strategies in the pharmacy workflow, include:
 - In-pharmacy promotional materials (tear pads, overhead announcement)
 - Verbal screening by pharmacy staff during patient encounters
- Outcomes evaluated include:
 - Number of type of travel vaccines administered
 - Yellow fever vaccination referrals
 - Antimalarial prophylaxis prescriptions dispensed.
- Outcomes will be compared with the same period from previous year.

Key Outcomes

- Increase in travel vaccine administration and prescribing of antimalarial prophylaxis when appropriate.
- Improve patient awareness of pharmacy-based travel health services

Future Direction

- Implement the awareness strategies at additional community pharmacy sites.
- Develop a standardized strategies and tools to increase awareness in travel health services.