



Arizona Vaccine Congress III May 14, 2012

Proposed Immunization Funding Solutions

- A. In the short term, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Private offices should coordinate patient immunization care so private offices are not losing patients
- B. In the long term, insurance companies need mandated contracts with county clinics in order to ensure that county clinics are able to carve out contracts for billing reimbursement despite not having MD on staff, etc.
- C. County health departments (CHDs) should partner with others in purchasing groups.
- D. CHDs and fire departments should set up a business plan for coverage of insured and underinsured patients to include: billing by a 3rd party, collection of information for this system, preauthorization.
- E. In the short term, public health should utilize the AZ Department of Education at all levels as an essential partner. We should develop consistent messaging regarding where specific populations should be referred. This messaging needs to be delivered through a consistent delivery system i.e. a central website that can be linked to by educational settings at all levels.
- F. CHDs and private practices should collaborate and implement use of "real time" billing systems like those used in pharmacies. By getting immediate up to date insurance information, practices could determine coverage before the vaccine is given, so that proper reimbursement and payment can be ensured ahead of time.
- G. Pass a legislative mandate ensuring appropriate reimbursement for vaccines from insurance plans for all practices.
- H. Set up a Vaccine Association funded by insurance companies, but purchasing should not be through the CDC contract, rather some "in between" price group purchasing contract.
- I. Return to adequate state funding. 317 funds and state funds should be used to support medical home reimbursement for time to counsel patients and for doctor's employer education
- J. Use ASIIS to flag inadequately immunized toddlers, and create a safety net fund with health plan funds.

- K. Create identification card for children to identify insurance status. The cards should include information about immunization status, where to get services, and which vaccines are covered by insurance. ID cards should be updated annually.
- L. Distribute interest free loans for to finance the purchase of private vaccine stock so that physicians/clinics don't have to pay the cost of purchasing the vaccine up front out of pocket. This would take some of the risk out of purchasing private stock vaccines, and allow the clinic to repay the loan once reimbursement has been processed by insurers.
- M. Mandate insurance companies to include on the insurance cards a code and a website link that shows which vaccines are covered, so that coverage can be verified at the time of the visit.
- N. Mandate or request the insurance companies to notify policy holders and tell them which vaccines are covered and which are not.
- O. Vaccine funding through DISH (discretionary funding)
- P. Use First Things First money to support vaccinations in schools- specifically to create a sustainable model for vaccinating insured children in schools
- Q. Have more school nurses who are able to vaccinate students. If there is no medical director, have the county health officer write order for nurse to give immunizations.
- R. Legislature to require ALL insurance companies to cover ALL ACIP recommended vaccines
- S. Need a governing board within the non-profit or state entity (possibly TAPI or DHS)
- T. Create a universal website so that every organization links to the same place, ensuring that everyone has the same information about where kids should go.
- U. Create non-profit to negotiate contracts with insurance plans.
- V. Enforce state statute that requires CHDs to provide vaccines at no cost to school aged children.
- W. Teach parents to ask questions of insurers
- X. Establish a national registry as opposed to ASIIS
- Y. Community Health Centers (CHCs) will be there for insured and uninsured children. Refer those children to CHCs