

Take a Stand™

National Adult Immunization Standing Orders Training Initiative

Each year, vaccine-preventable diseases kill thousands of adults in the United States, causing a significant human toll and a severe economic burden on our health care systems. Unfortunately, adult immunization rates remain low with long-standing gaps between national goals and actual adult immunization rates.

Take a Stand™ is a national program designed to raise adult immunization rates through increased utilization of Standing Orders in medical practices.

Evidence shows that using Standing Orders improves immunization rates in the adult population.

Take a Stand™ offers **NO-COST**, interactive 4-hour **workshops** held across the nation, led by a multidisciplinary team of experts in adult immunization. Register at **www.StandingOrders.org/registration**.

Eligible practices – those **that are currently administering at least one adult vaccine** – receive follow-up implementation support for one year after the workshop.

Health care providers serve a critical role in vaccination but are increasingly challenged by time, patient treatment focus, and prioritization of other preventative measures. The strength and impact of a health care provider's recommendation is paramount to overcoming low compliance. Thus, it is increasingly important that every health care professional who has competence to provide immunization assessment and recommendations, and to administer vaccines, be empowered to do so.

Fortunately, there is strong evidence showing that the use of Standing Orders in medical practices can improve immunization rates in the adult population. Standing Orders Programs (SOPs) authorize nurses, pharmacists, physician assistants, or medical assistants – when permitted under state law – to assess a patient's immunization status and then administer the needed vaccines according to standing orders that have been pre-approved by a physician or another authorized provider. SOPs are recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and by the United States Community Preventive Services Task Force.^{1,2}

Regrettably, standing orders are not being utilized sufficiently for adult immunizations. Recent studies demonstrate low utilization of this proven strategy. One study indicates that only 23% of internal medicine and family medicine physicians reported consistent use of SOPs for both influenza and pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccines.³ An increase in utilization of

SOPs in medical practices can be achieved through a sustained provider education effort.

An optimal education program should include demonstrating the value of a standing orders program and providing clear instruction about the requirements and steps needed for implementation. Additionally, the training should inform vaccinators about the specific regulations in their states that control who is allowed to administer vaccines using standing orders, thus dispelling misunderstandings that create false barriers to implementation of an SOP.

What is Take a Stand™?

Take a Stand™ is a new national program developed by the Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) in partnership with Pfizer, Inc., aimed at boosting adult immunization rates through increased utilization of standing orders in medical practices.

The program is being offered to medical practices and facilities of multiple sizes that are currently administering at least one adult vaccine. IAC will provide basic support to these practices for one year following their participation in the training workshop. The **NO-COST**, interactive 4-hour workshops are being conducted in at least 20 locations across the country. Led by a multidisciplinary team of experts in adult immunizations, each workshop has four goals:

1. Reinforce the value of adult vaccines,
2. Demonstrate the benefits of instituting standing orders to raise rates within practices,
3. Describe legal principles related to SOPs, and
4. Teach how to establish and implement standing orders.

How will the program benefit patients and/or practices?

Take a Stand™ will train practices to implement new SOPs or improve SOPs that are currently in place. The program also provides a year of support from IAC to assist practices in implementing SOPs. In addition to raising adult immunization rates, **Take a Stand™** will:

- ▶ Improve patient care through enhanced practice efficiency in delivering adult vaccines,
- ▶ Streamline clinician time in providing vaccinations to adults, and
- ▶ Provide access to evidence-based tools, model standing orders, and a step-by-step guide for improving the SOP and enhancing the quality of patient care.

Where can I go for more information or to register for a workshop?

Please visit the **Take a Stand™** website at www.StandingOrders.org.

1. Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices. Use of Standing Orders Programs to Increase Adult Vaccination Rates. *MMWR*, 2000, 49(RR01); 15-26. Available at www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr4901a2.htm.
2. Community Preventive Services Task Force. Increasing Appropriate Vaccination. Guide to Community Preventive Services [serial online]. Available at www.thecommunityguide.org/vaccines/index.html.
3. Albert SM, Nowalk MP, Yonas MA, Zimmerman RK, Ahmed F. Standing orders for influenza and pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccination: correlates identified in a national survey of U.S. primary care physicians. *BMC Fam Pract* 2012;13:22.

The Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) is a national 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to preventing disease by increasing immunization rates.