



2007 INFLUENZA VACCINATION QI FUND PROJECT

The purpose of the 2007 Influenza Vaccination QI Fund Project is to assess and improve the influenza vaccination rate for high risk members, identified as members with asthma, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and age 65 and older, who are at a greater risk of complications from influenza. A random sample of these high risk members was selected for each IPA. The 2007 goal was a Network rate of $\geq 46\%$.

The 2007 Influenza Vaccination QI Fund Project results for the 81 random samples are presented in the following table.

Year	Sampled Members for Participating IPAs	Exclusions	Final Number of Sampled Members	Number of Flu Shots
2006	15,272	610	14,662	6,042

In order to report an HMO Influenza Vaccination Network rate, data was collected from a sample of high risk members in the HMO network.

The following table displays the details for the 2007 HMO Influenza Vaccination Network rate.

2006 HMO Influenza Vaccination Network Rate	
Initial sample	450
Exclusions	18
Final sample	432
Total number of flu shots documented	219
Network Rate	51% (219/432)

Identified Barriers to Influenza Vaccination QI Fund Project:

Members:

- May feel getting a flu shot could cause the flu
- May have enough information about the flu shot
- May not have received a recommendation from the PCP to get a flu shot

Physicians:

- May find documentation challenging as members may get a flu shot from a source other than the PCP office. This makes it difficult for the PCP to anticipate how much vaccine will be needed.
- May have hesitated to order an adequate supply of vaccine due to shortages in the previous two flu seasons
- May lack a systematic method to track preventive services

IPAs:

- May not have a process in place to assist practitioners in obtaining a supply of the vaccine
- May not require physicians to obtain their own supply of influenza vaccine
- May not have a method to motivate their physicians to improve care

2007 BCBSIL Interventions Implemented to Address Identified Barriers:

Members:

- Mailed influenza vaccination reminders to 64,634 high risk members
- Included an article on the importance of flu shots in the 2007 Special Issue of *blueprints for health*, the member newsletter
- Provided online resources, including Personal Health Manager and Ask a Nurse

Physicians/IPAs:

- Made a QI Fund payment to IPAs with project results that met or exceeded established thresholds
- Updated and made the Preventive Care Guidelines available
- Provided a list of high risk members to IPAs to facilitate outreach to members who would benefit from a flu shot
- Provided flu shot stickers, reminder mailer cards, and “*Why You Should Consider Receiving A Flu Shot*” brochure to IPAs
- Published an article recommending flu shots for those at high risk for developing complications of influenza in the October issue of BLUE REVIEW, the provider newsletter
- Disseminated relevant influenza vaccination information from the CDC to the IPAs
- Discussed “Best Practices” at the QI Forum 12/3/07 with a presentation from an IPA explaining the interventions implemented to increase the flu shot rate
- Quality Improvement staff conducted IPA HMO QI Fund Training in March 2007 and held quarterly QI Forums

It is apparent from the analysis that the limited supply of influenza vaccine for the 2004-2005 flu seasons had adverse consequences on the 2006 influenza vaccination rate. The Influenza Vaccination QI Fund Project will continue in 2008.