

# HEDIS® HIGHLIGHT

## Flu Vaccinations for Adults (FVA/FVO)

## Children Immunization Status (CIS) for Flu



### What is the measure?

FVA/FVO assesses the percentage of **adults ages 18–64 and 65 and older** who received an influenza vaccination between July 1 of the measurement year and the date of the CAHPS 5.0 survey was completed.

CIS assesses the percentage of children who have had the appropriate number of vaccinations- two (2) influenza (flu) on or before the child's **second birthday**.

### Why is this measure important?

Influenza ("flu") is a contagious disease that spreads around the United States every year, usually between October and May. Each year thousands of people die from flu, and many more are hospitalized. Influenza can cause serious illness and death, particularly among older adults, very young children, pregnant women, and those with chronic medical conditions. Flu viruses are constantly changing.

### How can I improve my HEDIS scores?

CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine for everyone 6 months of age and older as the first and most important step in protecting against this serious disease. Offer or recommend the Flu (influenza) shot to your patients 6 months and older, especially those who are high risk.

Educate patients on getting vaccinated soon after the flu vaccine becomes available to ensure that as many people as possible are protected.

### Helpful Hints for Your Practice

- Discuss the benefits of getting the flu shot.
- Provide patients with information on:
  - The dangers of not being vaccinated, especially if at high risk
  - How the flu can spread
  - Recommend/ Offer the flu vaccination

### Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention- Influenza (Flu) Information for Health Professionals.

(<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/acip/index.htm>)

### Tips

Flu vaccine can:

- keep you from getting flu,
- make flu less severe if you do get it, and
- keep you from spreading flu to your family and other people.

Remind patients to get the flu shot and educate that there is no live flu virus in flu shots. They cannot cause the flu.

Before age 2: Two (2) vaccinations are recommended.

Adults 18 and over: Should get an annual flu vaccination

Seek treatment with antivirals if you get the flu.

Know the risk of vaccine reaction and what to do should a reaction occur.

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/flu.html>

### Did you know?

You can order **free** influenza (flu) educational materials for your patients from the CDC's website at

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/resource-center/freeresources/index.htm>