

REDUCE MISSED OPPORTUNITIES TO VACCINATE

Raise the vaccination rate of infants in your clinic by reducing or eliminating “missed opportunities to vaccinate”.

What can health care professionals do to reduce missed opportunities?

Prior to patient visits, review the immunization record for each patient and flag the charts of those who are due or past due. Screen for immunizations that are due or past due prior to every visit, not just well-child visits.

Flagging the records of children who need immunizations will alert you to give immunizations when a child is seen for an emergency, follow-up, or any other visit. Flagging the chart is essential for children who start the series late or fall behind and should receive immunizations on an accelerated schedule.

Flag charts to remind all staff (doctors, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and nurses) to vaccinate.

- Determine the process your clinic will use to flag charts.
 - Designate a person or persons to be responsible for reviewing charts prior to visits.
 - Make it easy to review immunization records by using a one-page immunization record in charts. Here is an example: <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2022.pdf>. The record can be printed on colored paper and always kept in the same place in all patient charts so it can be found quickly and easily.
 - Decide how charts will be flagged. You could use sticky notes of a specific color.
 - Check the patient’s record in Oklahoma’s State Immunization Information System (OSIS) as the patient may have received vaccines at another clinic or special event.

Be sure to check the patient’s personal record when they arrive for their appointment for vaccines received elsewhere.

Use the Catch-up (Accelerated) Schedule for children who are behind.

- Children 4 months of age or older who start late or who are more than 1 month behind should be placed on the ***Catch-up or Accelerated Schedule***.
- The ***Catch-up Schedule*** uses the minimum intervals between doses until the child is back on schedule. The Catch-up Schedule is available from CDC’s web site: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/child/0-18yrs-child-combined-schedule.pdf>.