

Immunization Challenges: Identifying Barriers to Enhance Immunization Practices Fact Sheet on Survey Results*

Results of a recent survey conducted by the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) of 702 nurse practitioners (NPs) found that record keeping and reporting of immunizations are among the numerous barriers that pediatric offices face in immunizing their patients on-time according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended schedule.

The NPs surveyed reported three primary reasons why a child does not get his or her recommended shots at a scheduled vaccination visit.

- Almost one-third (30%) said that a child often comes into the office sick for a scheduled visit, preventing them from receiving their scheduled vaccination(s).
- More than one-quarter (28%) said that they encounter parental resistance because a child is scheduled for too many injections.
- More than one-quarter (28%) said that they experience confusion with the child's immunization records or incomplete records.

The NPs surveyed said that they feel more comfortable administering fewer injections in one office visit when following the CDC's recommended schedule. Almost all of the survey respondents (97%) said that they were comfortable administering 2 shots in one office visit, but only 60% said that they felt comfortable administering 4 shots in one office visit.

The number of shots that are administered in one visit could be a barrier pediatric offices face in administering vaccines to their patients on-time. Half of the NPs surveyed said that parents sometimes object to the number of injections their child is scheduled for in one visit.

NPs are aware of ways to eliminate barriers that they encounter to immunizing their patients on-time, according to the ACIP recommended schedule.

- 62% said that it is helpful to explain the risk of disease to parents and over three-quarters (76%) said that they do discuss parental concerns and provide reassurance to their patients' parents.
- Three-quarters of the NPs said they are aware that combination vaccines can improve the likelihood that scheduled vaccinations will be given on-time and over three-quarters (77%) said that they have discussed combination vaccines with their patients' parents

Other Findings

- The majority of NPs who participated in the survey reported that their colleagues are responsible for administering or preparing immunizations for their patients – only 16% said that they are responsible for administering the majority of vaccines to their patients and 36% said that they prepare the vaccines for administration.
- The NPs surveyed said that they continue to look for additional educational opportunities and ways to learn about immunizations in various formats – the most preferred venues are conferences, Web-based programs and print publications (60%, 51% and 47% respectively).

*Based on an online survey conducted by NAPNAP and funded by GlaxoSmithKline

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