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Adult Vaccines and Immunizations in the Pediatric Office

CAP's Risk Management & Patient Safety Department has received a number of calls from pediatric offices regarding the administration of the H1N1 or Influenza (seasonal flu) vaccines to parents of their patients. **In addition, other specialties have asked if they can provide the vaccine to family members of their patients.**

Although there are no regulatory restrictions applicable to the provision of vaccines and immunizations, specific steps should be taken to limit your liability. If you are going to provide the flu vaccine to a parent or family member, please first review either the Vaccine Information Sheet (VIS) or the Information for Health Professionals attached to the Screening Questionnaire found below. These information sheets will help you identify which vaccine is appropriate for each individual.

Each time a flu vaccine is given, a CDC questionnaire should be completed by the recipient. For intranasal vaccination, refer to this [screening questionnaire](#), which includes an information sheet for health care professionals. If you administer an injectable vaccination, use this [questionnaire and information sheet](#).

You should also give each person a VIS to take home. The VIS is produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and is available on the internet at the following web sites: the [National Immunization Program](#) and the [Immunization Action Coalition](#).

Be sure to place a copy of the completed questionnaire in the medical record of your pediatric patient in an appropriately labeled section for future reference. You should also document on the questionnaire or on a separate progress note, the review of the questionnaire, provision of the VIS, and any other physical assessment done. **The progress note should include an assessment of the recipient's medical history including major illnesses or immune-compromised conditions.** This information will help to support your choice of vaccine for a specific individual, live (nasal) or inactive injection (used for pregnant women, immune-compromised people and others with a history of a major illness).

Authored by
Ann Whitehead, RN, JD
CAP Risk Management & Patient Safety Department

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