



Growing An Immunization Program

Advice from Ghada Abdallah, R.Ph., is a clinical pharmacist at Beaumont Health in Royal Oak, Mich., and an independent pharmacy and business consultant

The practice of immunizing at a pharmacy can easily grow to include more and more vaccines. A few things to consider when growing the practice are employee training and mental readiness. Any pharmacist or technician who administers vaccines should ideally take the immunization course offered by the American Pharmacists Association (APhA). If you are the manager of hospital outpatient pharmacies, your education department could potentially provide this training in house, but keep in mind it's a 20-credit course with APhA and there is home-study and live training involved. Most newly graduating pharmacists have already been trained. Other details may include:

- A policy/procedure manual for each store.
- OSHA guidelines, post-exposure protocol, and a needle-stick injury log.
- A basic life support class, including CPR, for pharmacists and technicians.
- Personal discussions with each immunizing employee to ensure proper training and identify any mental barriers (e.g., some people are afraid of needles or don't believe they should be administering vaccines).
- Working the immunization requests into the existing workflow.
- Making construction changes if needed.
- Getting a copy of APhA's immunization handbook.
- Downloading immunization apps to pharmacists' phones or tablets. Ordering supplies and opening accounts with various suppliers of immunization supplies, if needed.
- Proper marketing of the service.

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Read her article "Clinical Services in the Pharmacy During COVID-19" at wp.me/p9LtTd-3gh.