

Evidence Summary of a Systematic Review

Who is this summary for?

For Doctors and Health Personnel, Administrators and Managers of health facilities, and Community Health Workers and partners involved in preventive health care

Patient reminder and recall interventions to improve immunization rates

Background

Immunization rates for children and adults are rising, but coverage levels have not reached optimal goals. As a result, vaccine-preventable diseases still occur. In an era of increasing complexity of immunization schedules, rising expectations about the performance of primary care, and large demands on primary care providers, it is important to understand and promote interventions that work in primary care settings to increase immunization coverage.

Questions

What is the effectiveness of various types of patient reminder and recall interventions to improve receipt of immunizations?

Key findings

- Reminding people to have vaccinations likely increases the number of people who receive vaccinations by an average of 8 percentage points.
- Reminding people over the telephone was more effective than the other types of reminders.
- The increases in vaccinations were observed among children, adolescents, and adults.

Best practice recommendations

- Implement a reminder call back system for parents of children in health facilities;
- Used the telephone reminder system as it is most effective than others;
- Improve communication and interaction between health workers and mothers and their families.

Citation: Jacobson Vann JC, Jacobson RM, Coyne-Beasley T, Asafu-Adjei JK, Szilagyi PG. **Patient reminder and recall interventions to improve immunization rates.** Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2018, Issue 1. Art. No.: CD003941. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD003941.pub3. <http://cochranelibrary-wiley.com/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD003941.pub3/epdf>

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