



Physician Assistant Perspective

Bob McNellis, MPH, PA
Vice President, Science and Public Health
AMA/CDC Influenza Vaccine Summit
June 30, 2009



Best Practices and Continuity of Care The Role of Physician Assistants

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May 19, 2009



Physician Assistant Perspective: Policy, Practice, & Promotion

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It's good to be back!



Introduction to AAPA

AAPA Mission

- To ensure the professional growth, personal excellence, and recognition of physician assistants, and to support their efforts to enable them to improve the quality, accessibility, and cost-effectiveness of patient-centered health care.

AAPA Vision

- The American Academy of Physician Assistants is the leader in providing support and advocacy for physician assistants, the primary organization advancing the profession, a premier participant in health care transformation, and a passionate champion of patient-centered care.



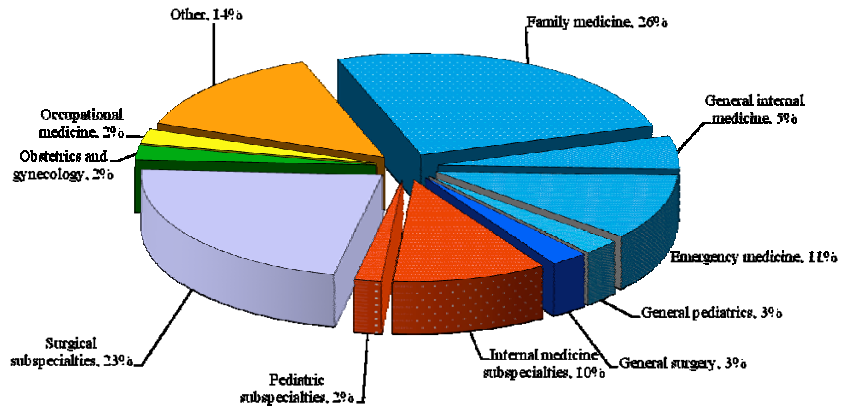
PA Fast Facts

- 85,345 PAs eligible to practice
- 73,893 PAs in clinical practice
- 142 training programs (medical model)
 - 4600 new graduates in 2007
- In 2008 PAs reported:
 - More than 257 million patient visits
 - More than 332 million prescriptions/recommendations

Source: AAPA Annual Conference Survey and Physician Assistant Census, 2008.



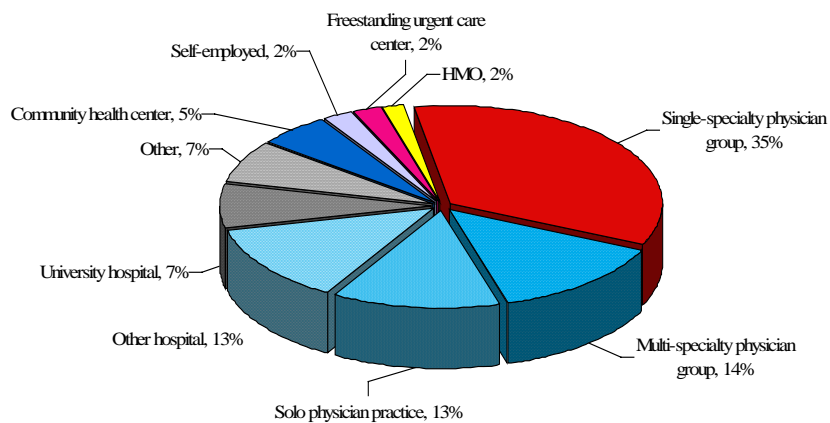
PA's Practice Specialty



Source: AAPA Physician Assistant Census Survey, 2008.



PA's Practice Setting



Source: AAPA Physician Assistant Census Survey, 2008.



Current PA role model?



Royal Pains (on USA network)
Physician Assistant Divya Katdare on right



Policies



AAPA Policy

Immunizations in Children and Adults

(Adopted 1994 and amended 2006)

- AAPA recognizes the importance of child and adult immunization programs and the need to educate individual PAs and the public about these programs.
 - [PAs should be aware of current medical guidelines](#) for immunization of children and adults.
 - Individual PAs and their practices, in cooperation with public health agencies, should [promote public information campaigns](#) to increase awareness of the importance of immunizations and allay fears and doubts about potential side effects.
 - [PAs should be immunized](#) against vaccine-preventable diseases for which health providers are at high risk. This not only protects PAs, but also protects patients by preventing provider-to-patient transmission.



Immunization CME Sessions AAPA's Annual Conference May 2009, San Diego, CA

Immunization

Objectives

- Increase the proportion of young children who receive all vaccines that have been recommended for universal administration for at least five years.
- Increase the proportion of non-institutionalized adults who are vaccinated annually against influenza and ever vaccinated against pneumococcal disease.

CME 9041 **Pneumonia**

CME 9132 **Herpes Zoster: Awakening a Sleeping Giant**

CME 9253 **Adult and Health Care Provider Immunization:
An Update from the CDC**



Journal Updates

Clinical Watch

FROM CSAC, THE CLINICAL AND SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF THE AAPA

ADULT IMMUNIZATION The 2009 vaccine schedules

WHO SHOULD READ THIS?
Any PA who provides care for adult patients (older than 18 years).

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?
Every year, more than 40,000 adults in the United States die from influenza, and additional deaths can be directly linked to pneumococcal infections, hepatitis B infection, and other preventable diseases.^{1,2} Diseases that can be prevented by vaccination have been estimated to cost society more than \$10 billion annually.⁴ Calculating the benefits of vaccines beyond the prevention of suffering or direct loss of life has been difficult. According to Rappuoli and colleagues, however, economists have suggested that vaccines are cost-effective because the expense of producing and administering them is lower than the cumulative costs of people being ill and out of work.⁵ For instance, for every \$1 spent on the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine, \$16.34 is saved in direct medical costs.⁵ Rappuoli goes on to say that if policy makers were to include the appropriate factors for

be up-to-date on their vaccinations will help decrease health-related mortality, societal costs, and overall disease incidence.

WHO SHOULD BE SCREENED FOR VACCINATION STATUS?
PAs should assess the immunization status of every adult patient at each office visit, regardless of the patient's reason for being seen. This recommendation includes those working in specialties because many adults are not seen by a primary care provider on a regular basis, resulting in missed opportunities for vaccine screening.

WHAT VACCINATIONS ARE CURRENTLY RECOMMENDED FOR ADULTS?
The CDC, the Advisory Council on Immunization Practices (ACIP), and the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) have issued the recommendations detailed in this section^{6,8} (see Figure 1, page 16, and Figure 2, in the online version of this article).

For all adults:
• Tetanus and diphtheria (Td) immunizations should be given at 10-year intervals throughout the patient's life. Adults younger than 65 years should receive substitute tetanus, diphtheria,

TAKE-HOME POINTS

- Adult vaccinations are frequently overlooked by health care practitioners.
- Adults often do not realize that they need vaccinations because they

acellular pertussis vaccine for one of the Td boosters.

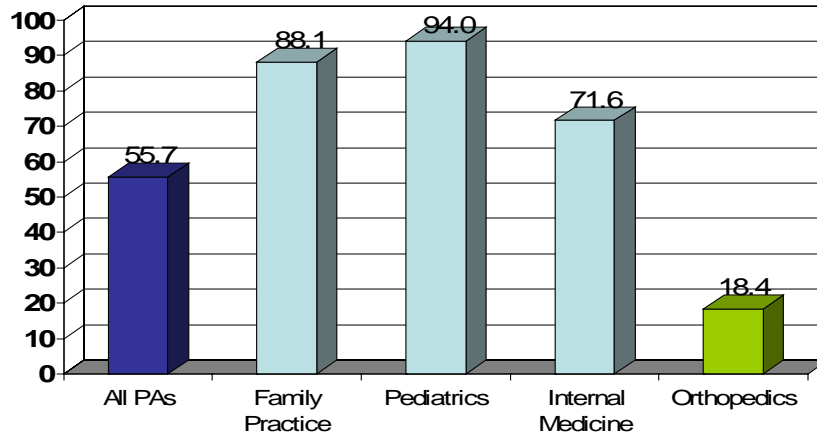
- MMR vaccine is recommended for all adults born after 1956 who are not immune to measles, mumps, and rubella. A second dose of vaccine is required for those who have recently been exposed to measles or mumps or who are in an outbreak area, have been previously vaccinated with killed measles vaccine, have been vaccinated with an unknown type of measles vaccine during 1963-1967, are students in postsecondary educational institutions, work in the health care industry, plan to travel internationally, are female with an unreliable rubella vaccination history, or who have no contraindications and lack laboratory evidence of immunity.
- Varicella vaccine is recommended for all adults who have not had chickenpox, lack laboratory evidence of immunity, or have not been immunized previously against chickenpox.
- Influenza vaccine should be administered annually to adults wishing to reduce their risk of contracting influenza or infecting others. Groups who should be vaccinated include persons 50 years or older, women who will be pregnant during the influenza season, residents of long-term care facilities, persons with certain chronic medical conditions, health care workers, persons providing care for high-risk persons, and those who provide care for or live



Practice

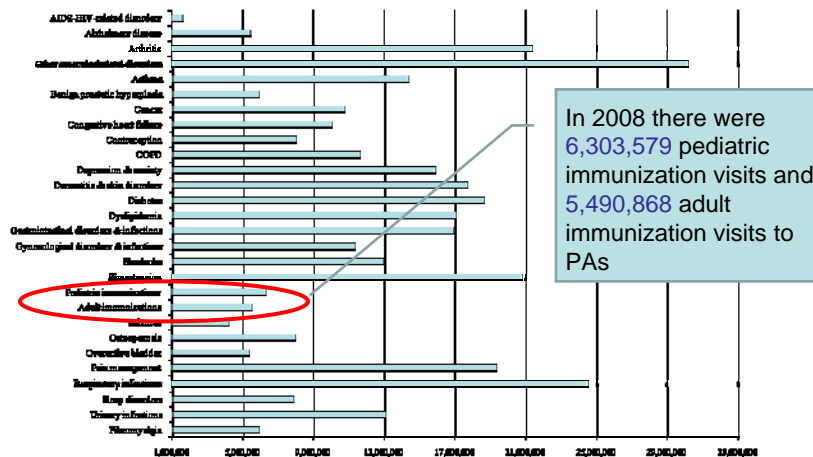


Do PAs provide or ensure that children and adults have received the recommended vaccinations?



Percent of PAs who have implemented Healthy People 2010 LHI objectives into their practices

Patient Visits to PAs for Select Disorders/Conditions in 2008

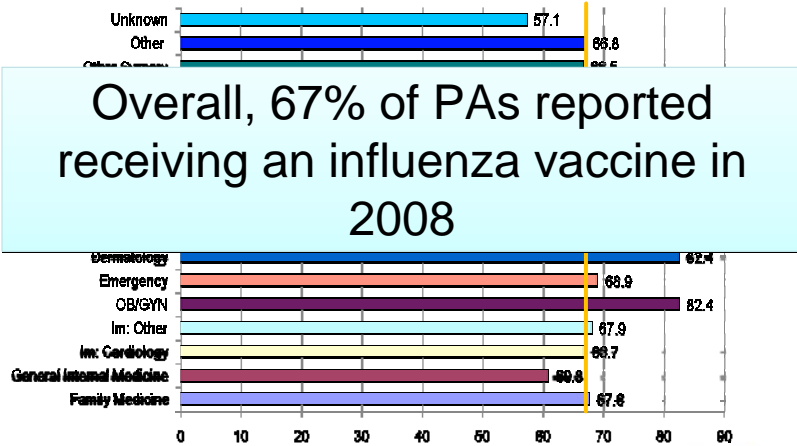


In 2008 there were 6,303,579 pediatric immunization visits and 5,490,868 adult immunization visits to PAs

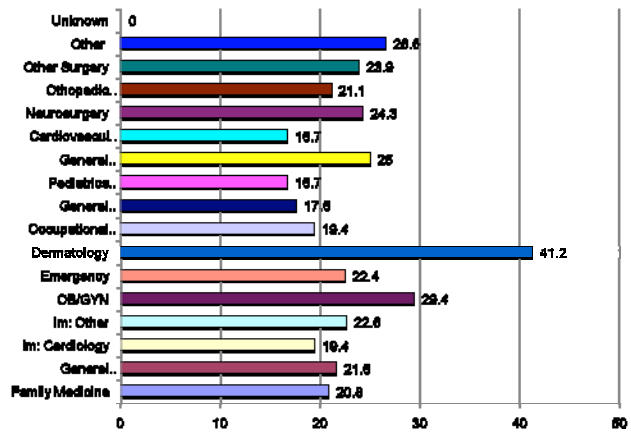
Source: Information Update: Number of Visits to Physician Assistants for Select Disorders in 2008.



Percent of PAs Receiving Annual Influenza Vaccine, By Specialty



PAs Receiving Training for Influenza Pandemic



Are PAs prepared for an Influenza Pandemic?

- 22% of PAs have been trained to deal with an influenza pandemic
- 3% say they have responded to an influenza pandemic!

Threat	Trained	Responded
Biological threats	31%	4%
Chemical threats	29%	5%
Radiation threats	23%	2%
Nuclear threats	19%	1%
Natural disasters	27%	14%
Mass casualty events	37%	18%



Promotion



New product promotion ideas



↑ 1918

1930's →



Partnerships

- National Influenza Vaccine Summit
- National Influenza Vaccine Week
- Childhood Influenza Immunization Coalition
- Attend ACIP, NVAC, NIC
- Immunize Now!
- Report these activities to our membership



Promotion

- PA Professional, monthly news magazine
- Immunization Web page
- Monthly electronic news blast to members
- Daily medical news e-mail
- Social media efforts – Facebook, Twitter, YouTube



As an employer

- Offer free, on-site influenza vaccination to employees in October each year
- Certificates for vaccination given to those not on-site on vaccination day
- Last year, of 78 staff, 39 received vaccination, and 4 received certificates
- Provide occasional informational presentations



Bioterrorism: What do we need to know?



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Marie-Michele Leger, MPH, PA-C

Manager, Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control
Children's National Medical Center

October 30, 2001

Influenza Season, 2004-05



PA-STAFF-AGAINST-THE-FLU

October 29, 2004

Swine Flu and You



May 5, 2009

Bob McNellis, MPH, PA

Vice President, Science and Public Health

In Conclusion

- AAPA believes in the importance of immunization, especially for influenza
- PAs see millions of patients for immunization visits, more opportunities
- Many PAs get vaccinated, many still do not
- In partnership, we are prepared to ratchet up the message and interventions

Thank you!

