

AFIX: Assessment, Feedback, Incentive and eXchange

What is AFIX?

AFIX is the evidence-based, continuous quality improvement process used by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to improve immunization practices.

Assessment: The Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR) is used to generate vaccine coverage rates for your clinic/practice.

Feedback: A meeting to discuss vaccine coverage rates and strategies to improve upon those rates.

Incentive: Recognition of improvement.

eXchange: A check-in is scheduled three to six months following the initial feedback meeting.

How does the Wisconsin Immunization Program conduct AFIX?

The Immunization Program has conducted AFIX visits with providers throughout Wisconsin for many years. In 2016, the Program will offer three types of AFIX visits: Standard AFIX, HPV-specific AFIX, and Adult AFIX.

1. Standard AFIX visits focus on childhood and/or adolescent immunization practices.
2. HPV-specific AFIX visits are conducted by HPV outreach specialists and address the adolescent platform, with a specific focus on HPV.
3. Adult AFIX visits will be conducted beginning in November 2016 and will focus on improving vaccine services offered to adult patients.

What is involved in an AFIX visit?

Immunization Program staff meet with immunization stakeholders within your clinic to complete a short questionnaire that reviews current immunization practices. WIR data will be used to generate vaccine coverage rates for children, adolescents, and/or adults in your practice. Based on these discussions, one or two mutually agreed upon strategies will be chosen to implement within your clinic. Interventions may include data clean-up in WIR, sending reminder/recall notices, or adapting the scheduling process to facilitate the completion of multi-dose vaccine series. Coverage rates are re-measured in three to six months to see the impact of these strategies.

AFIX visits are generally less than an hour in length and can be scheduled at your convenience. Face-to-face

meetings are preferred, but alternatives such as video or teleconferencing may also be arranged.

What if my clinic or health care system already has or is planning a quality improvement project focusing on immunizations?

The goal of the Wisconsin Immunization Program is to use the AFIX process to partner with you in your efforts. Some of the interventions you have planned may fit within the AFIX model. The Immunization Program can assist by using the WIR to help measure progress towards your immunization goals.

How does an AFIX visit differ from a VFC site visit?

Providers who participate in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program receive biannual compliance site visits. These visits focus on technical aspects of vaccine management (such as storage and handling) and are a requirement of the VFC Program. The objective of an AFIX visit is to improve immunization practices at the provider level by providing resources, building upon existing strengths and implementing new strategies.

How do we schedule an AFIX visit for our clinic?

Immunization Program staff will contact your office regarding AFIX within the next year. If you have questions or would like to arrange an AFIX visit, please contact your regional immunization program representative(s).

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/centralstaff.htm>

Are AFIX visits required?

As an awardee of CDC funding, the Wisconsin Immunization Program is required to offer and conduct AFIX visits. Although not a requirement of the VFC Program at this time, participation in AFIX is strongly encouraged. Measuring vaccination coverage levels at the provider level is a Healthy People 2020 goal (IID-17). The implementation of AFIX strategies has been shown to increase coverage rates by reducing missed opportunities to vaccinate and increasing the efficiency of vaccines services provided.



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