

PHYSICIAN ALERT

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FLU VACCINE IS A CORE MEASURE AT THIS TIME OF YEAR

The Influenza vaccination is indicated in:

Pneumonia patients age 50 years and older, hospitalized during October, November, December, January, or February who are screened for influenza vaccine status and are vaccinated prior to discharge.

Influenza Vaccine is a Core Measure:

Core measures are used to track a variety of evidence-based, scientifically-researched standards of care which have been shown to result in improved clinical outcomes for patients. CMS (the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services) established the Core Measures in 2000, began publicly reporting data relating to the Core Measures in 2003, and will be paying hospitals to report results in several clinical focus areas.

Care is being monitored in 5 focus areas:

Acute Myocardial Infarction
Heart Failure
Pneumonia
Pregnancy and related conditions
Surgical Infection Prevention

The Pneumonia focus includes 5 core measures:

Oxygen assessment
Pneumococcal screening or vaccination
Timely Blood cultures
Adult smoking cessation and counseling
Appropriate antibiotic administration
Influenza vaccination