

## Immunization Program Provider Spotlight

### August 2025

#### Unionville Pediatrics – Megan Hughes

When you go to the Unionville Pediatrics website and find the biography for their Head Nurse and Office Manager, Megan Hughes, you will find the following description, which is a truly fitting summary: “The queen of the easy vaccine and all-around legend for her bright disposition.” A nurse and passionate advocate for public health, Megan is leading the charge at her practice to improve vaccine coverage, streamline immunization workflows, and most importantly, make healthcare a welcoming and trustworthy place for families. Megan has become a key figure in the practice’s quality improvement efforts, especially around immunizations and it all starts with a few powerful tools: CT WiZ and meaningful conversations.

Unionville Pediatrics has been welcoming a wave of new families transferring into the practice and with that comes a lot of records to review, immunizations to verify, and schedules to catch up on. Megan and her team jump into action by reviewing patient histories, sometimes relying on CT WiZ to track down past vaccinations when records are not readily available. “Our biggest focus right now is making sure every child - whether they’re new or long-time patients - is on the right schedule,” Megan explains. “If someone isn’t up to date, we meet families where they’re at, explain what’s needed, and work together to get them caught up.” That personal, respectful approach is what Megan believes builds trust, especially when conversations about vaccines can sometimes feel overwhelming for families.



Pictured: Megan Hughes

Megan’s focus on quality improvement truly took off after participating in the Immunization Quality Improvement for Providers (IQIP) program. During a visit, she and her IQIP consultant reviewed CT WiZ’s Coverage Assessment Snapshot reports and everything clicked. The reports provided a clear snapshot of which children were behind on vaccines and which data points were not being properly captured. “The EHR and CT WiZ integration has been a game changer,” Megan says. “It helps ensure our data is accurate, and more importantly, that our patients aren’t falling through the cracks.” Now, Megan regularly uses these tools to not only maintain up-to-date records but to drive proactive outreach. “Seeing your rates improve over time as you improve data quality and get more kids caught up is exciting,” she adds. “We try to have the highest vaccination rates we can because we know it’s going to be beneficial for the community, especially for children who are immunocompromised.”

One of Megan’s successes is her work to improve HPV vaccination rates. This vaccine has faced significant parental hesitancy, but Megan and her team decided to take a proactive approach to offset some of the common concerns. Instead of waiting until the often jam-packed 11-year-old well-child visit, they now start the conversation as early as age 9. “It gives us time to talk more about the vaccine, answer questions, and reduce some of the anxiety that can come at the 11-year-old visit,” Megan explains. With a combination of earlier conversations, accessible educational materials, and large-scale campaigns to promote public HPV vaccine awareness and perception, such as TV commercials, Megan has seen families become more open and receptive to the vaccine. “It’s not a rushed decision anymore,” she says. “It’s something we’ve had time to talk through together and thoroughly educate on.”

For others looking to do similar work in their office, Megan’s advice is simple: start early and use your available tools. “When it comes to the HPV conversation, starting earlier really makes a difference. There’s less stigma and less pressure, which provides more opportunities for meaningful discussion,” she says. “And with CT WiZ, once you understand the reports and start using them regularly, it becomes one of your most valuable tools.” Megan emphasizes that none of this work happens in a vacuum. It takes a committed team, strong communication, and a shared belief that every child deserves protection, and every family deserves to feel safe and supported in a medical setting. “We are really happy to be doing the work that we do and to make sure that the general public has space in the healthcare system. We are here to help them and not scare them away.” That’s the heartbeat behind everything Megan Hughes does at Unionville Pediatrics, and it shows.