

## Immunization Program Provider Spotlight April 2024

### Pediatric Associates of Western Connecticut

Pediatric Associates of Western Connecticut have adolescent vaccination covered!

Recently, the clinicians in this practice completed a huge push to increase human papillomavirus (HPV) and meningococcal vaccination rates in their adolescent patient population. Dr. Jamie Alon and primary vaccine coordinator, Jamie Lyman, led the charge in participating in a Norwalk Health Department vaccine campaign, *Win/Win/Win with the Big 3*. Pediatric Associates of Western Connecticut was able to utilize electronic health record reporting capabilities and maximize their outreach efforts as part of this initiative. Their staff soon realized that simply being aware of who was due or overdue for vaccine was key to successful outreach to families or counseling during appointments. Their coverage reports highlighted any gaps in vaccine records that they then addressed with an all-hands-on deck approach.

Building on the model of flu-only clinics that were offered during influenza season to increase vaccine uptake, their staff applied this same method to offer a focus on HPV and meningococcal vaccines for adolescent patients, which was well received by patients and parents! Nurse Kerri Masesa mentioned that ample vaccine counseling time was also key in administering more HPV vaccines because it allowed providers to have in-depth conversations around HPV-vaccination, which is not required for school entry in Connecticut. Emphasizing the importance of preparation and tone, Kerri mentioned the language providers use to explain the potential outcomes for unvaccinated individuals and the informative tone of vaccine counseling is what made their efforts successful, for both HPV and meningococcal vaccinations.

Through this quality improvement initiative, their staff were not only able to increase rates of vaccination in their adolescent patients and prevent disease, but also found their work that much more enjoyable and fun. Coming together for a streamlined vaccine push, they found having a unified message and positive tone around vaccination was beneficial for their patients and vaccine workflow, producing great results within their practice.

