Sustaining and Growing Immunization Services through a Unique Online Public Health Billing and Coding Training Series
Jeffery Erdman

Background:
Public health programs are valiantly working in challenging economic times to increase adult and childhood immunization rates. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reported that the cost of vaccinating children has risen 500 percent in the last 10 years, and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) has reported that 48 percent of U.S. local health departments have reduced or eliminated services in the same time period.

Setting:
In an effort to sustain and grow vital immunization and preventive health services for public health programs in Illinois and across the country, the Illinois Public Health Association (IPHA) has developed the first of its kind, free online training series, “Medical Coding and Billing for Public Health Services.”

Population:
This unique training series includes 16 online classes covering third-party billing for immunization services and all other aspects of medical coding and billing for public health departments.

Project Description:
One of the developers of this innovative capacity-building resource will provide National Immunization Conference (NIC) attendees with a detailed overview of this online training series, which includes courses such as “Credentialing and Contracting for Public Health Departments,” “Medical Coding for Public Health Services,” “Coding and Billing for Immunizations and Flu Shots,” and “Coding and Billing for Prenatal and Well-Baby Services.”

Results/Lessons Learned:
NIC attendees will increase their knowledge about billing for immunization services and sustaining and growing these vital public health programs through this presentation. The presenter will review the courses that comprise this online training series and will provide NIC attendees access to the courses. Funded by the CDC Immunization Billing Project, IPHA seeks to ultimately assist public health programs in increasing adult and childhood immunization rates via this first-of-its-kind online training series, which has helped Illinois local health departments generate more than $6 million in third-party billing revenue from preventive health services.
Game, Set, Match: Collaborating to Diversify IIS Funding through Medicaid Match
Jan Hicks-Thomson, Kimberly Martin, Quan Le, Amanda Harris

Background:
Stakeholder use of Immunization Information Systems (IIS) and IIS data are increasing. IISs help stakeholders measure performance, make clinical decisions and complete business processes. IISs help stakeholders meet program and Meaningful Use requirements. IIS, like other health information systems, are complex. IIS maintenance and enhancement costs can be high. Most Immunization Programs (Programs) rely solely on federal cooperative agreements to fund their IIS. Stakeholders do not typically provide funding support. In recognizing these dynamics, the CDC Immunization Information Systems Support Branch (IISSB) made sustainability a cornerstone of the IIS strategic plan. IISSB promotes sustainability in collaboration with stakeholders and awardees. One focus is helping Programs seek Medicaid 90/10 HiTech Match (90/10 Match) funds.

Setting:
United States (US)

Population:
64 Immunization Programs

Project Description:
IISSB conducted a literature review, held discussion forums, and conducted one-on-one interviews with IIS managers in nine immunization programs. IISSB worked with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, the Office of the National Coordinator, the Association of Immunization Managers, and the Public Health Informatics Institute to develop resources and provide consultation. Different types of consultation were used to assist programs in addressing policy, infrastructure and fiscal barriers.

Results/Lessons Learned:
Brief reference documents and templates helped Programs navigate the process of working with their state Medicaid agencies. The discussion forums and interviews improved awareness of 90/10 Match. In some cases, receiving information was all a program needed to move forward. In other cases, information, tools and consultation were needed. Increased awareness, and access to tools and technical assistance improved the likelihood that programs would seek and be successful in getting 90/10 Match.