

Introduction

Dr. File: Hello, I'm Dr. Tom File, and I welcome you to this program entitled, "Sharpening Your 2020 Vision for Common Adult Vaccines." Our title reflects a critical Healthy People 2020 goal, which is to increase immunization rates and reduce the incidence and prevalence of preventable infectious diseases. Today, we will be focusing on adult immunization, because current trends and increases in vaccine-preventable diseases reflect unacceptably low immunization rates in this population, despite recommendations and guidance from the American Academy of Family Physicians, the Community Preventive Services Task Force, the National Vaccine Advisory Committee, and most recently, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Failure to immunize and prevent diseases—such as influenza, pneumonia, pertussis, or herpes zoster—may have life-changing or even deadly consequences, and can be especially problematic for women who are pregnant, or people who are older or have chronic diseases.

We're going to take a real-world, case-based approach to explore specific recommendations for influenza vaccines; the tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis vaccine, the herpes zoster vaccine; and the pneumococcal vaccines. You will have an opportunity to review four case scenarios and hear real-world reactions to these scenarios by three community physicians from different practice settings—one from a rural setting, one from a single-physician practice, and one from a large, multi-physician practice. I'll then comment on their discussion, provide evidence-based rationales, mostly from the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, that support use of the vaccines. I'll then share strategies for improving immunization rates among adults.