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5566&CustomerID=324



Navigating Coronavirus Series Remind, Recall, Repeat -Tools to Link Patients to Care

May 19, 2020

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Logistics for today's COVID-19 Forum

Question during the live webinar



Technical assistance

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Today's Presenters

- Christie Burris
 Executive Director, HIEA
- Jessica Brehmer
 Business Development and Outreach Specialist, HIEA
- Karen L. Smith, MD, FAAFP
 Independent Rural Family Physician
- Wendy Holmes Immunization Branch Head
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NC HealthConnex Overview

We connect health care providers to safely and securely share health information through a trusted network to improve health care quality and outcomes for North Carolinians.









PARTNERSHIP

By the Numbers:

- Over 55,000 providers with contributed records
- 6,000+ health care facilities live submitting data, including 113 hospitals
- 5,000 plus health care facilities in onboarding
- 100 million+ continuity of care documents (CCDs)
- 9M+ unique patient records
- 700K messages flowing in daily
- Over 225 unique EHRs engaged, over 80 live
- Over 20 border and interstate HIEs connected, plus connections to the VA and DoD via the eHealth Exchange and the national Patient Centered Data Home network

COVID-19 Data Collection & Data Sharing Challenges

The pandemic has highlighted the systemic issues across the U.S. with clinical data sharing and the need for a comprehensive data sharing ecosystem.



- Bridging patient records across multiple silos
- Patients seeking care outside of traditional (emergency) surveillance scope; using telemedicine, urgent care, primary care, health departments



- Siloed and limited frameworks for delivery of results back to care teams
- Central repository of patient histories for segmenting high-risk populations



Balancing patient privacy concerns against public health need to know

NC HealthConnex Response Against COVID-19

HIE is a clinical data collection and data sharing service to provide comprehensive, longitudinal patient health records at the point of care and surface insights about who is impacted, where is the virus spreading, who should be tested, and which communities are at greatest risk.



Providers:

Timely, longitudinal patient records & awareness of new cases via NC*Notify and population health dashboards to improve care coordination, patient care decisions and operational needs.



DHHS:

Support the State's syndromic surveillance efforts via NC EDSS and NC DETECT with clinical repository to identify Covid-like illness across health care settings and patient matching services.



Public Health/Citizen Safety:

Identify COVID-like illness across health care settings as they seek to identify and isolate potentially exposed individuals.

Current Outbound NC HealthConnex Services for COVID-19

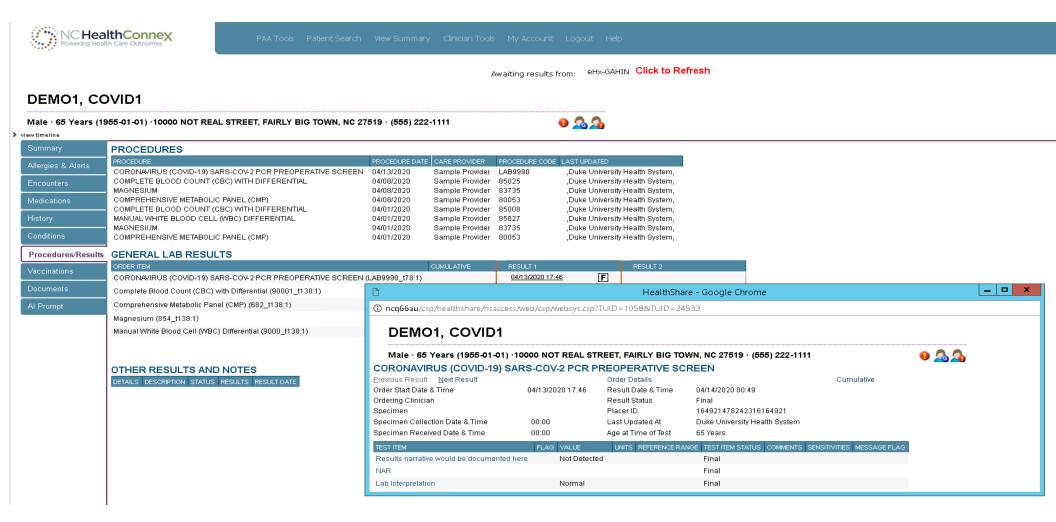




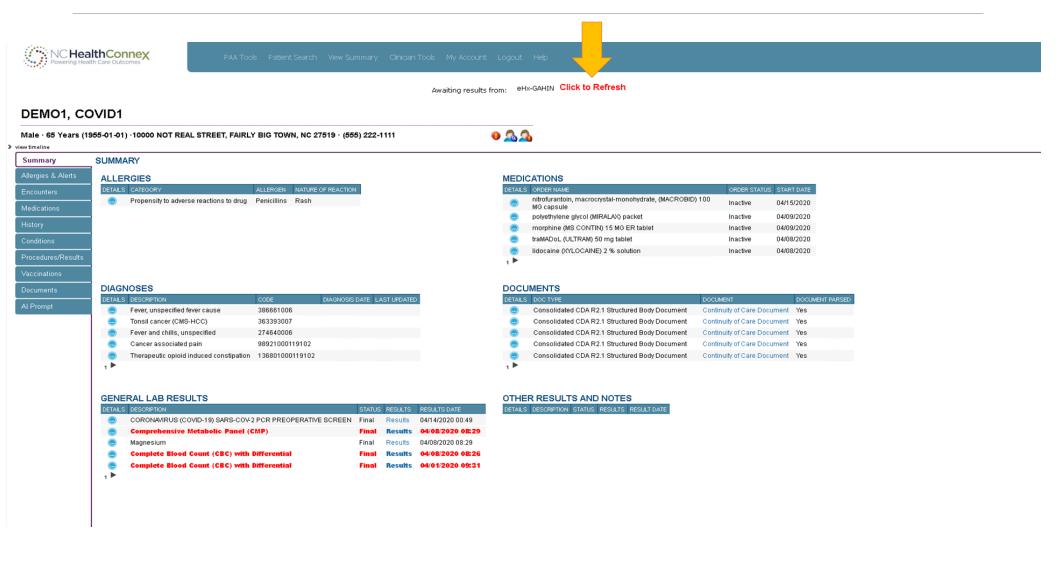


- Access to patient data from point of care
 - EHR Integrations
 - Web-based Clinical Portal
- NC*Notify
 - Providers receive alerts as their patients seek care
- Cohort Monitor
 - View patient lists via web-based clinical portal (available to providers early June)
- Data extracts for public health response (gathering requirements)
 - Key data points for segmenting population and mobilizing response

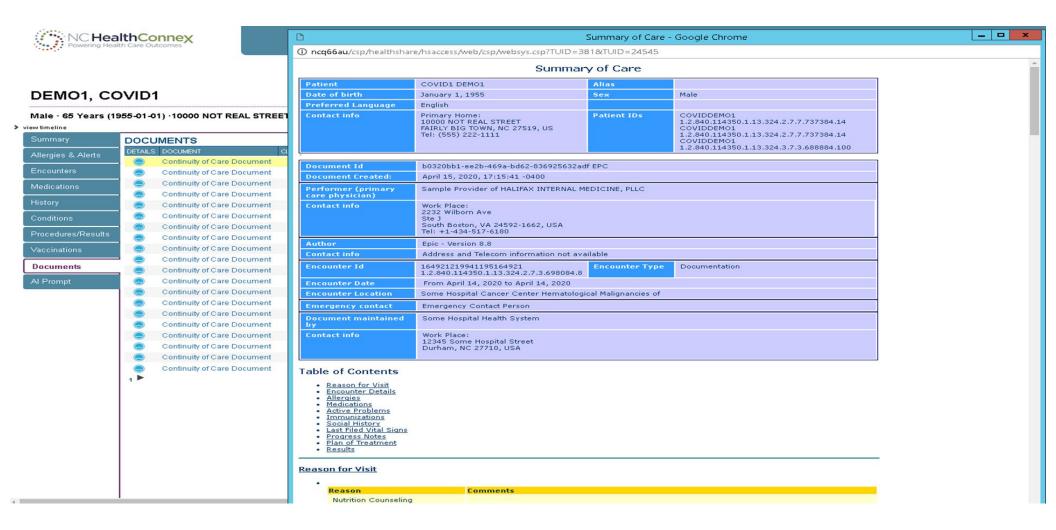
Procedures/Results



Patient Results from eHealth Exchange



Documents - Continuity of Care Document (CCD)

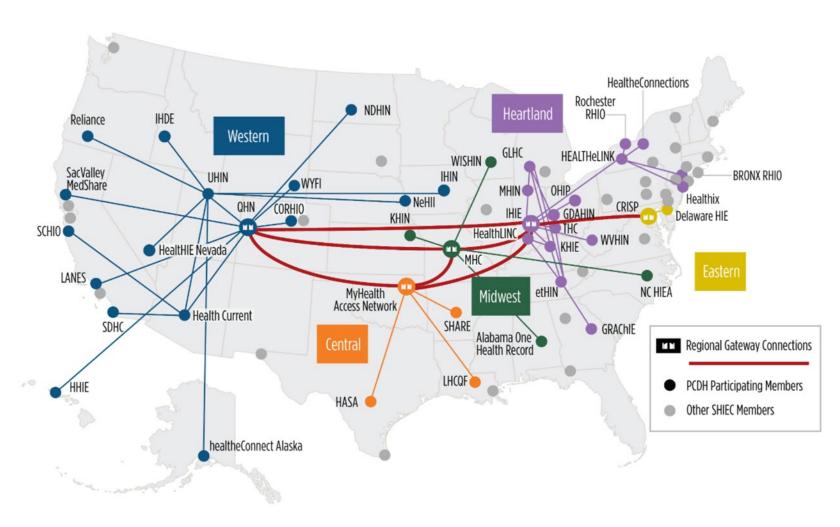


Patient Centered Data Home

How It Works

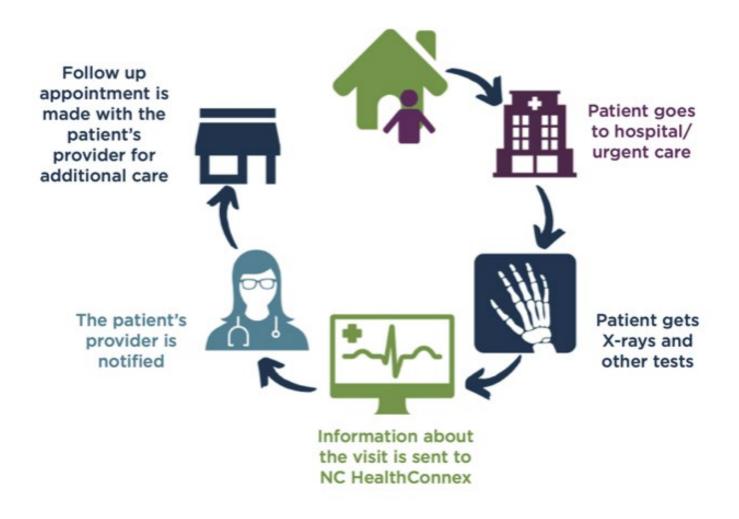


Patient Centered Data Home



Reference: https://strategichie.com/initiatives/pcdh/

NC*Notify – Event Notification Service

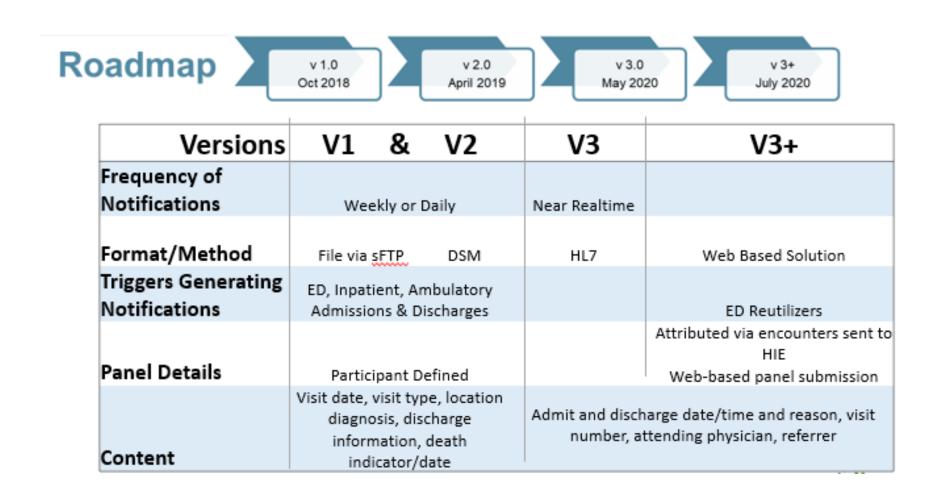


Future State - V3 and V3+

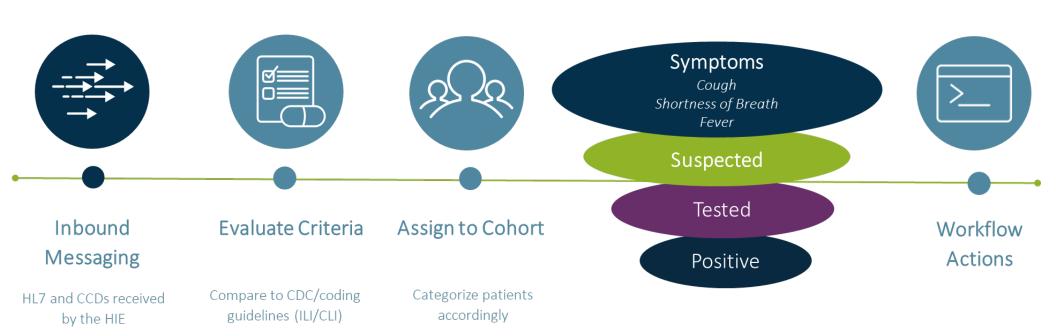
Along with near real-time HL7 notifications, other enhancements in V3+include :

- Auto Attribution
- Patient Panel Loader
- Web-Based Notification Platform A dashboard-like platform accessible through the NC HealthConnex Clinical Portal that provides:
 - More efficient view of patient notifications
 - Exporting abilities for reporting
 - Care coordination enhancement tool

Advancing Notification Services



NC HealthConnex Cohort Monitor



Questions?

For more information visit: www.nchealthconnex.gov

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Karen L. Smith, MD, FAAFP Independent Rural Family Physician

Goals for Presentation

- 1. Telehealth Strategies used in Outpatient Clinics to insure Continuity of Care
- 2. Review the Role Healthcare Data at Point of Care
- 3. Patient Perception and Acceptance of Primary Care's effort in response to Covid-19

Leverage Fundamentals of Team Approach



The Beginning of the Pandemic



Healthcare Data vs. Doughnuts and Burgers

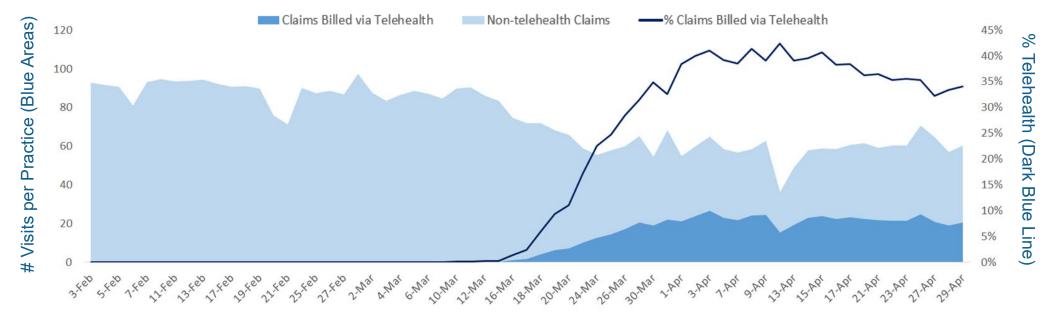


Modification of Patient Messaging



Telehealth Adoption by Independent PCPs in NC

Claim Volume & Telehealth Uptake (Weekday Adjusted)



Notes

- These data represent 126 independent primary care practices with 237
 practice locations across North Carolina (partnering with Aledade in value
 based accountable care contracts)
- Telehealth use increased from 0% to 35% of all claims in under 20 days
- Visit volumes dropped by 40% but beginning to stabilize and hopefully climb

Telehealth Annual Wellness Visits

Medicare Policy Clarification

Medicare policy allows for the billing of the AWV (G0438-G0439) when delivered via telehealth provided that all elements of the AWV are provided (https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/AWV Chart ICN905706.pdf).

For the duration of the public health emergency, the AWV may be administered using audio-only technology, if a video connection with the patient is not possible. If the patient can self-report elements of the AWV (i.e., height, weight, blood pressure, other measurements deemed appropriate based on medical and family history), those measurements may be included and recorded in the medical record as reported by the patient. Guidance for when the patient cannot self-report is currently under review, and CMS plans to issue guidance soon. We encourage you to keep abreast of changes and updates by browsing our most up-to-date publications via the following CMS websites:

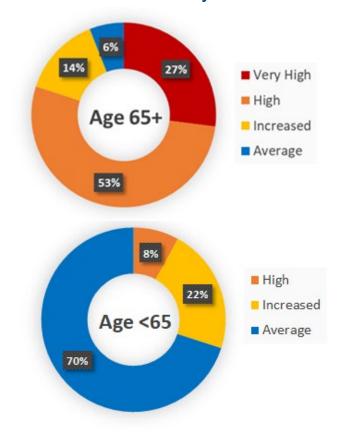
- https://www.cms.gov/about-cms/emergency-preparedness-responseoperations/current-emergencies/coronavirus-waivers
- https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Outreach/FFSProvPartProg/Provider-Partnership-Email-Archive.

Identify & Proactively Outreach to COVID-Vulnerable

How we help bring awareness to COVID-19 Vulnerability:

- Based on available scientific literature so far, Aledade implemented a basic scoring system that assigns points for patient characteristics that correlate with higher fatality rates from COVID-19 infection.
- Age has the strongest influence on this scoring system.
 - History of CVD, COPD, HTN, DM, cancer and male gender also confer higher risk.
 - Patients whose most recent BP was >160/100 or most recent HbA1C >9.0 have a higher score than those with controlled values.
- Patients are segmented into 4 vulnerability categories for ease of interpretation: average, increased, high, and very high

What proportion of patients can I expect to be flagged high vulnerability?

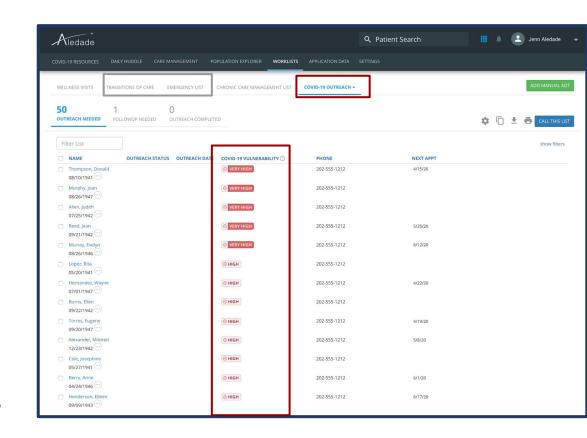


Fill Schedules with the Patients who Need you Most Right Now!

- 1. Actively monitor hospital ADT event notifications to assist with care transitions
- 2. Identify patients who are most vulnerable to severe COVID complications if they were to be exposed
 - Advanced age, DM, CVD, COPD, immunosuppression

3. Keep them safe!

- Convert scheduled visits to telehealth visits
- Proactively outreach to schedule a "Stay Well at Home" visit



"Stay Well at Home"

© Aledade, Inc. 2020

COVID-19 "Stay Well at Home" Telehealth Visit Checklist



Don't forget to review the Daily Huddle for alerts and tags!

Starred tasks can be performed outside of the visit by practice staff or using a questionnaire.

Provide COVID-19 Patient Education & Guidance

- *Educate on Vulnerability to COVID-19:
- People aged 65 and older and those with heart conditions, lung disease, high blood pressure, diabetes and cancer or other immunocompromising conditions are significantly more vulnerable to severe illness in the event of coronavirus exposure.
- *Avoiding Exposure Advise:
 - ☐ "Stay at home as much as possible, stay >6 feet away from others if you must go out."
 - ☐ "Wash hands frequently for >20 seconds, keep hand sanitizer with you, avoid touching your face."
 - "Postpone elective procedures, surgeries, dental and other non-urgent visits. Did you have anything coming up?"

Make a Care Plan for Chronic Conditions & Ensure Adequate Supplies

Medications and Durable Medical Equipment:

- *Ensure patients have a 90 DAY SUPPLY of medications and DME, including home oxygen, nebulizers, incontinence supplies, etc.
- *Encourage to call for refills at least 2 weeks in advance, and arrange for home delivery from local or mail order pharmacy. (Many payers are allowing for early refills)
- ☐ *Ask: "How often do you miss a dose of your medication?" (Address barriers to adherence)
- See full medication review guidance here.

Dialysis, Infusions, & Other Critical Therapies:

*Ask: "Are there any barriers to care or treatment?"

General:

- Consider need for home self-monitoring devices to complement telehealth visits.
- Provide instructions for self-measurement and symptom monitoring, and when to call. Engage family members to
- Reinforce medication adherence and address barriers.
- Consider enrollment in chronic care management.

Specific Conditions:

- HTN: BP monitor at home? Establish self-monitoring plan.
- DM: Glucometer at home? Establish self-monitoring plan.
- ☐ HF: Scale at home? Establish self-monitoring plan. ☐ Coumadin: Can the patient switch to a direct oral anticoagulant? If not, establish plan for INR monitoring.
 - (Click here for further anticoagulation guidelines)

Keep Patients Prepared for the Future

Advanced Care Planning:

■ Ask: "Have you and your family talked about your wishes for ventilator support or resuscitation in the event of serious illness?" (Discuss end of life wishes and advance directives. Offer f/u telehealth ACP visit)

*Provide Guidance on When to Call:

- Advise: "Call us if you develop a cough or fever, feel bad in any way, or if you have any other concerns."
- *Urgent or Emergent Care:
- Does your patient know who to call or where to go if high acuity care is required?

- ✓ COVID-19 Precautions
- Medication and DME supplies
- Plan of care for chronic conditions
 - home monitoring
- Advance care planning
- Food and safety at home
- Anxiety, depression, stress management
- Alcohol and substance use

Address Social & Behavioral Health Needs

*Social Needs:

- Ask: "How are you currently obtaining groceries? Do you have sufficient access to food?"
 - (Arrange Meals on Wheels or other services as necessary)
- Ask: "What is the one thing that worries you most about staying at home during this emergency?"
- Ask: "Do you have a family member or friend who can check in on you regularly?" (Encourage staying connected virtually)

Behavioral Health:

- *Consider a PHQ-2 or GAD-7 screen.
- *Ask about alcohol and substance use.
- Refer for behavioral health telehealth services as needed

Smoking Cessation:

■ More important now than ever! (Consider nicotine replacement therapy and pharmaceutical support)

Physical Activity & Healthy Eating:

Make a plan for staying physically active and maintaining a healthy diet during social isolation.

Sleep Hygiene:

Encourage patients to get sufficient sleep and to practice healthy habits to avoid insomnia.

https://www.aledade.com/covid-19

Telehealth and High-Risk Patient Management Checklist: Unprecedented cancellations by patients of scheduled visits for chronic disease management.

- Detrimental for individuals with high cardiovascular risk, diagnosed ischemic vascular disease, suboptimal diabetes control, and uncontrolled hypertension because they are more likely to be hospitalized or die if infected with SARScoronavirus.
- Even if infection does not occur, delaying chronic disease management increases odds patients will experience unwanted sequelae of their chronic disease.
- Primary care practices need sufficient patient volume to remain financially sustainable in their communities.
- Systematic scheduling of telehealth visits for the chronically ill, especially prior to a
 defined COVID surge, benefits patients through enhanced chronic careand can
 reduce COVID related morbidity and downstream complications of patients' chronic
 conditions.

- Query EHR for a list of all patients with uncontrolled hypertension who have not been seen in the last 3 months.
- Query EHR for a list of all diabetics with Hgb A1C's > 7.9 percent who have not been seen in the last 3 months.
- Query the EHR for all patients with LDL cholesterols > 130 who have not been seen in the last 3 months.
- If the EHR is capable of producing 10-year ASCVD risk scores, query for all patients ≥ 10% who
 have not been seen in the last 3 months.
- If high ASCVD risk population cannot be automated, simply cross the lists above and designate those who appear on 2 or more lists as highest risk and designate those above the age of 50 on one list as intermediate-high risk.
- 6. Prepare a handout for all hypertensive patients and the ASCVD high risk group who do not own a digital blood pressure cuff with procedures and potential products for obtaining a dependable digital monitor. {We can prepare this for practices – see HHN BP modules}. Note Medicaid is currently paying for these devices.
- Designate video visit or telephone (if video not possible) visit slots for high risk patients prioritizing the highest risk patients first.

- Have nurse / CNA do pre-visit to ensure that telehealth platform works and to get weight (if patient has scale) and blood pressure (if patient has digital device).
- If patient is diabetic and has glucometer get glucometer readings during pre-visit.
- 10. If patient is hypertensive and does not have a digital device, can use the pre-visit to advise the purchase of the digital monitor or designate an isolated, "clean" office area for blood pressure monitoring "drop in" {would probably reserve this for individuals with very high pressures at last visit, e.g. systolic > 160 or diastolic > 100}.
- 11. Ensure flexibility with technology and high-risk patients when executing the pre-visit contact.
 While the practice may have a preferred telehealth solution, the practice may have to work with what the patient is most comfortable with (i.e. Facebook, Facetime, Skype, telephone).
- Emphasis for the main clinician visit should be aggressive risk reduction, e.g. intensification of diabetes meds, hypertension meds, addition of statins.
- 13. With medication adjustments, arrange follow up telehealth visit at a fairly quick interval, e.g. 2 weeks, to ensure that improving trends and associated risk reduction is proceeding appropriately.
- 14. In follow up take a thorough history in terms of adherence to new meds or dose adjustments and ask about any relevant side effects. Continue to intensify care if indicated.

- 15. Continue to systematically schedule chronic disease patient visits from high risk to low risk until all population lists are exhausted. Prioritize follow up of uncontrolled high risk patients over lower risk patients but eventually work down to the lower risk lists.
- 16. Some patients will not recognize the value of telehealth visits and wish to wait for the reestablishment of face to face visits. Pre-visit staff may need to advocate for the value of controlling dangerous illnesses now in the context of COVID infection as well as the uncertainty of when regular face to face visits will be available.
- 17. Consider using telehealth and telephonic visits for follow-up of patients recently discharged from the hospital inpatient or emergency room. This will help the practice and patient ensure effective transitions of care management.
- 18. Incorporate telehealth with annual wellness exams and a prioritization of high-risk patients.

COVID-19 Impact on Vaccine Administration: "Sneak Preview" of the next challenge

- This data represents over 1100 offices in 15 states, multiple payers and multiple EHRs, across the lifespan. Older patients demonstrate a greater percentile decline when compared to the pediatric population
- Public health administered vaccines often in rural locations
 demonstrated the greatest decline in vaccination administration

Week Start Date	Age Group	AII
(Monday)		
2-Mar		0.6%
9-Mar		-8.8%
16-Mar		-34.5%
23-Mar		-49.9%
30-Mar		-54.8%
6-Apr		-55.9%
13-Apr		-49.6%
20-Apr		-49.2%
27-Apr		-41.2%
4-May		-32.0%
11-May		-33.3%

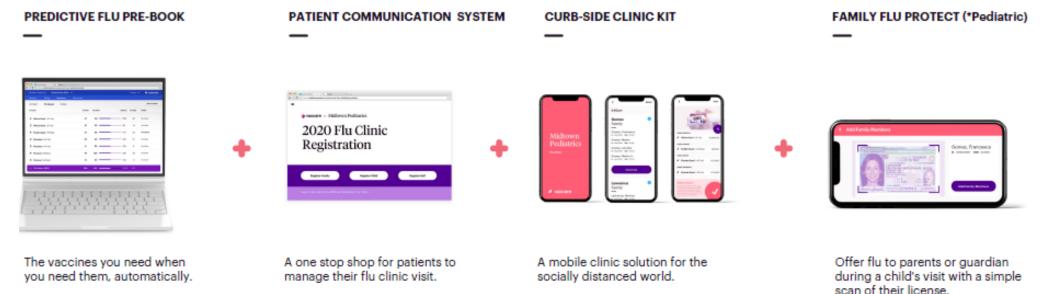
Adult and Pediatric Immunizations



Complete Flu Clinic Solution

Overview

A complete flu clinic solution that helps patients engage with the providers they trust. These tools will help equip practices with the ability to effectively order, communicate, and vaccinate in a COVID environment.



Patients Thankful for Uninterrupted Service



Wendy Holmes

Immunization Branch Head N.C. DHHS' Division of Public Health

Goals of this presentation

- 1. Encourage the use of the Reminder/Recall function in the N.C. Immunization Registry to promote timely immunization during the pandemic.
- 2. Provide step-by-step example of how to perform this operation.

Timely Immunization is Important



Morbidity and Mortality Weekly

May

Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Routine Pediatric Vaccine Ordering Administration — United States, 2020

Jeanne M. Santoli, MD¹; Megan C. Lindley, MPH¹; Malini B. DeSilva, MD²; Elyse O. Kharbanda, MD²; Matthew F. Daley, MD³; Lisa Ga Julianne Gee, MPH⁴; Mick Glover⁵; Ben Herring⁶; Yoonjae Kang, MPH¹; Paul Lucas, MS¹; Cameron Noblit, MPH¹; Jeanne Tropper, MPH, I Tara Vogt, PhD¹; Eric Weintraub, MPH⁴

Maintaining Coverage Levels

 Prioritize in-person newborn care as well as well visits and immunizations for children through 24 months of age.

- Collaborate with Local Health Departments (LHD) and provide to the extent possible immunization services for eligible children.
- Use Reminder/Recall with a focus on Reminder notifications.

Reminder/Recall Process

- Reminder/Recall is about communicating to a Parent/Responsible guardian that the patient is due now or on a future date (reminder) or past due (recall) for one or more immunizations.
- Reminder/Recall Report allows you to generate letters for patients who are due or overdue for vaccines. It can also be used to identify eligible patients when your office has short-dated vaccine or for vaccine recalls.
- The **NCIR Reminder/Recall Report** utilizes demographic information recorded in the registry such as address and telephone number to send notifications.

Benefits of using the NCIR Reminder/Recall Report

- Reminder/Recall is an easy and low-cost method for Providers to reinforce a medical (immunization) home through identification of patients lost to follow up and bringing them back for immunizations as well as other care.
- Assists Providers to improve clinical care through identification of erroneous immunization practices, such as giving a vaccine too early, violating minimum interval/age rules, etc.
- Saves staff time/labor by providing quality assurance benefits for Providers that use the NCIR to generate Reminder/Recall notifications.

Reminder/Recall Notifications and NCIR User Roles

Reports Only

Searches for clients and views/prints client specific records

Typical User

- Manages client status
- Manages immunization information

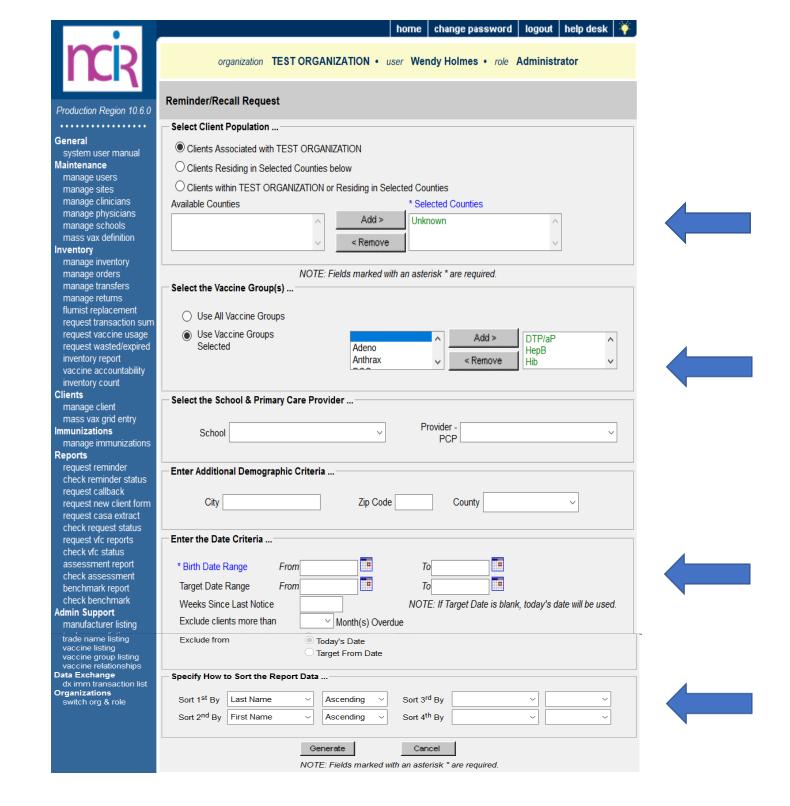
Inventory Control

Manages inventory and ordering

Administrator



- Manages users, practice site(s), clinicians
- Generates practice-level reports, including reminder/recall



organization TEST ORGANIZATION • user Wendy Holmes • role Administrator

Reminder Request Status

Refresh

Cancel

Started	Completed	Status	Clients	Eligible	Birth From	Birth To
05/17/2020 07:12 PM	05/17/2020 07:12 PM	100 %	5	3	05/18/2016	05/18/2018

Reminder Output Status

Reminder Request Process Summary

Step	Criteria Evaluated at this Step	Clients
1	Clients that are active or inactive for TEST ORGANIZATION.	215
2	Clients that are active for TEST ORGANIZATION.	51
3	Clients from Step 2 that are born between 05/18/2016 and 05/18/2018.	10
:	Clients from Step 3 that meet the following criteria: County is not specified; School is not specified; Provider - PCP is not specified; Weeks Since Last Notice is not specified.	8
:	Clients from Step 4 that meet the following criteria regarding vaccination status: Clients that are Recommended or Overdue for one or more vaccinations between 05/17/2020 to 08/01/2020; Use the following vaccine groups: MMR and; Use for all clients. Exclude Overdue Reminders is not specified	5
	Clients from Step 5 that meet the following criteria. Have one or more responsible persons; At least one responsible person receives notices; City is not specified Zip Code is not specified	3

Output	Description	Additional Input
Client Query Listing	A list of clients eligible for reminder based on the report criteria (in .pdf format). Excludes omitted clients.	Report Name
Reminder Letter	Standard Reminder Letter.	Report Name Free Text
		Phone #
Reminder Card	Standard Reminder Card (4x5).	Report Name Free Text Phone #
Mailing Labels	Avery Mailing Labels.	Report Name
Client Extract	A .txt file of clients eligible for reminder based on the report criteria. Includes omitted clients.	Report Name

Report Descriptions

Report Output	Description
Client Query Listing	This report is produced for the administrator's records. This report will list every client that was returned in the report query process. Along with each client, the report will also list the phone number and full address of every responsible person associated with each client. Any incomplete or blank lines found in this report represent insufficient or missing phone numbers and/or address information for a responsible person. This report excludes omitted clients.
Reminder Letter	This report output produces a standard form letter with sufficient room at the top of each page for your provider organization's letterhead. The body of the letter includes the clients immunization history, recommended immunizations and due dates, and can also include the free text and/or phone number. *Note*
Reminder Card	This report output produces a standard (4x5 inch) mailing card, printed one card per page. The body of this card includes only the clients recommended immunizations and due dates, and can also include the free text and/or phone number. *Note*
Mailing Labels	This report produces mailing labels and will print in the same order as either of the above two reports. The report has been formatted to print on Avery Mailing Labels #5160 , which contain 30 labels per page. *Note* • The clients name is included in small font under the responsible person on the Mailing Labels.
	Default sort will be on clients last name.
Client Extract	The Client Extract file is produced for the provider organization's mailing records. This extract is a fixed flat file containing the client name and primary contact information for every client that meets the query criteria through the vaccination status step: recommended or overdue for the selected vaccines. The extract will include clients reported in the Client Listing as well as clients reported in the Omitted Client report. Missing addresses or telephone numbers on this report represent missing information on the client's primary responsible person

Reminder Recall Best Practices

- Establish a reminder recall process for pediatric and adolescent patients.
- Designate a staff person to lead/coordinate this effort.
- Develop a standardized reminder recall process for your office (frequency, methodology, age cohort, etc.)
- Train front desk staff on when to schedule next immunization appointment and schedule next appointment at the time of checkout.
- Use the NCIR to run and send notifications to due/overdue patients.

Reminder Recall Best Practices (2)

- Use the NCIR to determine which immunizations are due for each patient at every visit.
- Ensure that immunization staff are knowledgeable and comfortable with administering all recommended vaccines to patients at every visit.
- Train nursing staff on facilitating conversations about the importance of vaccination with patients/parents.
- Provide strong, concise, and assertive recommendations.
- Routinely measure your pediatric immunization coverage levels and share the results with staff.

Questions?

For more information, email:

wendy.holmes@dhhs.nc.gov

Questions?

