



# AOA's Call to Action on Pneumococcal Disease

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Pfizer grant 042966

Link to program:

[www.docmeonline.com/pneum.aspx](http://www.docmeonline.com/pneum.aspx)

# Overall Objectives

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The objectives of this important initiative are to:

- ❖ Implement and manage standing orders for adult pneumococcal disease immunization
- ❖ Evaluate adult patients who are candidates for pneumococcal disease immunization based on current recommendations
- ❖ Increase provider recommendations for pneumococcal disease immunization to adults

# Overview

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In 2015, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices issued updated recommendations for the use of 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) and 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23) to immunize adults aged 19 to 64 years with risk factors and all adults aged 65 years or older. Despite these recommendations, rates of vaccination among adults remain low. Federal and state initiatives have been launched to encourage health care providers to incorporate vaccination screening and recommendations in practice. Several resources are available to improve vaccination rates, including implementing electronic medical records; engaging non-physician staff in assessing vaccination history and administering immunizations; adopting standing order protocols; and implementing strong recommendations to patients regarding needed immunizations. However, even in the face of compelling evidence-based research, implementing changes in practice is challenging. The American Osteopathic Association implemented a 2-part Web program called the Call to Action on Pneumococcal Disease. Although some changes in attitudes and intent to change were demonstrated by this initiative, there were no statistically significant increases in self-reported actual adoption of standing order protocols or increases in adult pneumococcal immunization. Nonetheless, some lessons were learned, and these results support the need for ongoing efforts in this area of medicine.

# Summary

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- ❖ The attached supplement to The Journal of the American Osteopathic Association provides a written summary of your results and the impact of the project on the healthcare community