



Improving Adult Immunization Rates for COVID-19, Influenza, and Routine Adult Vaccinations through Partnerships with Medical Subspecialty Professionals

Project Duration: September 30, 2021 – September 29, 2026

HEALTH SYSTEM APPLICATION INFORMATION SHEET

The Council of Medical Specialty Societies (CMSS) has received a funding award from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to improve immunization rates for COVID-19, influenza, and routine adult vaccinations (the “Project”). CMSS has partnered with ASCO to conduct Project activities focused on improving immunization rates in patients with cancer and blood disorders.

ASCO will engage 7 Health Systems to participate in Project activities, to include performance measurement, quality training, clinical guidance, professional education, and patient education. Health Systems will be provided \$250,000 in funding in year 1 of the Project, with \$750,000 total expected over the 5-year Project duration.

Health Systems participating in the Project will be required to utilize funding to employ a Project Coordinator for the duration of the Project, select a Physician Champion for Project activities, and conduct one or more information technology or other activities to support Project goals. Health Systems may elect to focus Project activities at one service location for year 1 of the Project, with further expansion in years 2-5.

Other health system/practice participation requirements include Quality Training. Selected health system/practice staff will participate in ASCO’s Quality Training Program (QTP), a six-month program that includes five days of in-person or virtual learning across three sessions, including hands-on learning at the participants’ practices. Each health system/practice team will identify a quality problem for its improvement project, which it will launch, develop, and present on during each QTP session.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Project Management: Awarded health systems will be expected to utilize funding to employ a Project Coordinator, appoint a Physician Champion to oversee project activities in the health system, and perform at least one quality improvement activity and one information technology activity.

Quality Training: Awarded health systems’ staff will participate in [ASCO’s Quality Training Program \(QTP\)](#). ASCO’s QTP will provide Health Systems with training on quality improvement methodologies, education related to project goals, and coaching support throughout the project. Health system teams will be required to select a project related to either capturing vaccination status or increasing vaccination compliance. Health systems will work on their project in-between training sessions and

report progress at each training session. ASCO will initiate the QTP in year one, with additional sessions, coaching, and dissemination of results taking place in future years.

Performance Measurement: ASCO and CMSS will establish performance measures for use in this project. These measures will be reported by awarded Health Systems throughout the five-year period to establish baseline performance, determine effects of education and process interventions, and monitor continued success through statistical process control. Reporting of measures may require clinical data from electronic health records and immunization information systems, patient surveys, and other data collection tools.

Performance measures will include, at least, the proportion of patients receiving an immunization status assessment, the initiation and frequency of provider counseling regarding disease risk and vaccination recommendations, and the proportion of patients receiving vaccinations following provider counseling.

Clinical Guidance: ASCO will develop a clinical practice guideline, or endorse or modify an existing guideline, on the role of vaccination in adult cancer patients. ASCO will engage an expert panel of clinicians with specialized training and/or experience in this topic. ASCO will include guideline materials on ASCO.org and submit for consideration of publication in one or more ASCO journals. Note: while clinical guidance activities may initiate in year one, publication of a final guideline will be dependent on evolving clinical evidence on effectiveness and appropriate use of vaccines and may require additional time for completion.

Professional Education: Based upon needs identified in Quality Training activities, ASCO will develop an online course for clinicians on addressing vaccine hesitancy among patients with cancer. This training course will be available first for participating health systems and will later be made available for other clinicians on asco.org.

Patient Information: Based upon needs identified in Quality Training activities, ASCO will develop two patient information fact sheets, to be produced in English, Spanish, Standard Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese, to address vaccine awareness and vaccine hesitancy. ASCO will provide a sample supply of these fact sheets to each participating health system for use in the project and later make them available for use by other Health Systems via ASCO's patient education website, Cancer.Net.

HEALTH SYSTEM ROLE DESCRIPTIONS

Project Coordinator: The project coordinator will support the Project's goals within their health system/practice. ASCO expects the project coordinator to participate in the following project activities:

- Act as the primary liaison between the health system/practice and ASCO,
- Report on progress, delays, and barriers on Project deliverables,
- Manage performance measurement and other data submission requirements outlined in the Project workplan,
- Attend and complete the three in-person or virtual learning sessions in ASCO's Quality Training Program (QTP),
- Identify and submit a quality problem statement related to vaccine hesitancy, for which the health system/practice will work to improve through the course of the QTP,

- Assemble and manage a team to support Project-related quality improvement activities in the health system/practice,
- Complete progress reports, as requested by ASCO, including use of funds for positions and IT activities undertaken by the health system/practice, and
- Work closely with ASCO's Project Manager for any logistical and administrative tasks for the term of the Project.

Physician Champion: The health system/practice will identify a physician champion to support the Project's goals within their health system/practice. The physician champion should be within, or directly supporting, the health system's/practice's cancer service line. ASCO expects the physician champion to participate in the following Project activities:

- Oversee Project activities in the health system/practice and report on any potential barriers or delays,
- Provide overall support to the health system/practice in meeting Project deliverables (e.g., securing protected time to attend learning sessions; completing data abstractions; complying with Project reporting requirements),
- Attend and complete the three in-person or virtual learning sessions in ASCO's QTP, and
- Regularly review progress of quality improvement activities and outcomes with Project Coordinator and ASCO.

OUTCOME MEASURES UNDER CONSIDERATION

The project participants (CDC, CMSS, ASCO, and other societies) are interested in the following measure concepts—final measures will be determined in Summer 2022. ASCO will work with Health Systems to identify available data and methods for reporting.

- Number and percentage of patients who have documented vaccine assessments in their records.
- Number of provider-made recommendations about vaccinations, including frequency and provider recommendations.
- Number and percentage of providers' recommendations that result in immunization,
- Frequency (stronger way or routine way) and quality of the provider recommendation through patient assessments/surveys.
- Number, percentage, and types of healthcare provider access to continuing education materials that focus of SAIP and the strategies to build into workflows for high-risk patients.
- Number and percentage of providers who have downloaded/used specific tools.
- Number and percentage of subspecialty providers and occupational health providers who view influenza, COVID-19, and routine adult immunization as part of their scope of practice.
- Number and percentage of societies and healthcare systems/providers engaged in adult immunization improvement efforts.
- Number, percentage of, and types of organizations and healthcare systems/providers implementing vaccination quality improvement interventions.

- Number and percentage reported: 1) aware of vaccination recommendations, 2) aware of available resources, and 3) understand the need for vaccination improvement efforts.
- Number and percentage of healthcare systems/providers using EHR or IIS to screen or forecast vaccination needs.
- Number and types of new technologies or procedures used to streamline the vaccine assessment.
- Number, percentage of, and types of healthcare personnel who reported better understanding of vaccine hesitancy.

SELECTION AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

Minimum Criteria: The following minimum criteria must be met for all participating health systems/practices:

- Health system/practice manages at least 10,000 active hematology and/or oncology patients in the most recent calendar or fiscal year, OR meets one of more High Priority Criteria.
- Health system/practice has agreed to employ a full-time Project Coordinator to fulfill Project requirements and activities,
- Health system/practice has identified a Physician Champion to oversee project activities,
- Health system/practice collects immunization status for influenza and COVID-19 within their electronic health record OR agrees to do so within three months of award AND agrees to add additional vaccines as requested by ASCO,
- Health system/practice agrees to participate in performance measurement and quality training activities of the Project,
- Health system/practice agrees to comply with all agency requirements and other Project terms and conditions, and
- Health system/practice has included a letter of support from a senior officer of the health system/practice.

Evaluation Criteria: ASCO will use the following criteria to evaluate/score applications meeting the minimum criteria:

- Health system/practice has demonstrated experience with improving vaccine awareness, vaccination activities, and/or addressing vaccine hesitancy within their cancer, hematology, or other patient population,
- Health system/practice has demonstrated experience with clinical quality improvement initiatives,
- Health system/practice has established an interface with a state or regional immunization information system(s) OR intends to do so within 12 months of award,
- Health system/practice administers vaccines for influenza and COVID-19 within their cancer/hematology centers, and
- Health system/practice has articulated clear aims and proposed approaches to improve vaccine awareness, vaccination activities, and/or addressing vaccine hesitancy within their cancer/hematology patient population.

High Priority Criteria: To achieve a diverse group of health systems/practices participating in the Project, ASCO will prioritize health systems/practices meeting one or more high-priority criteria, with the aim of selecting at least one health system/practice per criterium.

- Health system/practice includes a safety net hospital identified for Project activities,
- Health system/practice has 25% or more of its hematology and oncology patients residing in a rural area, according to HRSA Rural Health Grants Eligibility Analyzer (If residence information is not available, then 25% or more of hematology and oncology patients are treated at a rural health system/practice location),
- Health system/practice has 25% or more of its hematology and oncology patients residing in a Medically Underserved Population (MUP) area, according to HRSA MUA Find (If residence information is not available, then 25% or more of hematology and oncology patients are treated at a health system/practice located in an MUP area),
- Health system/practice has 50% of its hematology and oncology patients identified as non-White or White Hispanic, and
- Health system/practice includes an allogeneic and autologous bone marrow and peripheral blood stem cell transplant program identified for Project activities.

HEALTH SYSTEM YEAR 1 SAMPLE BUDGET

Project Coordinator:	\$105,000
Physician Champion stipend:	\$20,000
One or more IT activities:	<u>\$125,000</u>
TOTAL Year 1:	\$250,000