
This article deals with immunizations in a primary care setting, not allergen immunotherapy, but the insights are valuable and applicable to the private allergy practice.

Literature Search Results

Of the total 109 studies, 41 met eligibility criteria and were included in the final review.

Reminder/recall systems were found to be effective in 33 (80%) of the 41 studies and were generally effective for both children and adults and for both routine immunizations and targeted influenza immunizations.

Recall improved rates, even if the baseline compliance was high

One might expect that improvement in immunization rates would be easier to achieve at lower baseline levels, with diminishing returns at higher levels; however, this was not found. In general, the degree of improvement in immunization rates due to reminder/recall was not associated with baseline immunization levels, which ranged from nearly 0% to 86%

Effectiveness of Reminder/Recall According to Patient Characteristics

Reminder/recall was effective for both children and adults. Reminder/recall was most effective in academic settings, with somewhat lower but still positive results in private practice settings.

Effectiveness of Different Reminder/Recall Systems

All types of reminder/recall systems appeared to improve immunization rates, with ORs generally between 1.5 and 2.5 and improvement in immunization rates of 5 to 20 percentage points. Telephone reminders appeared to be more effective than other types of reminders, while letter reminders generally did not appear to have an advantage over postcard reminders.

Costs of Reminder Systems – often less than $1.