

**“It is not fair to ask of others what you are not willing to do yourself.”**

**–Eleanor Roosevelt**

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## **Making COVID Vaccine Available to Every Patient**

Just three months ago, the COVID vaccine was in such high demand relative to supply, with some young adults going from pharmacy to pharmacy toward closing time to see if any COVID vaccine doses remained for the day to be given to them rather than being wasted.

Now the supply is exceeding demand, and the older methods of prioritizing vaccination have been disbanded, replacing mass vaccination sites with smaller mobile sites. Some still require sign ups, while others will accept drop-ins. There is much debate about how to convince those who are hesitant to be vaccinated to step forward and get the vaccine.

While educational methods are a part of the strategy, we are overlooking a key fact: patients consistently say that they most trust their own doctor when looking for vaccine advice. Yet, when patients come to their doctor's office, and are convinced to get vaccinated against COVID, they often can't just get the vaccine right there in the office, like they could for a Tdap vaccine, for example. The patient needs to sign up with another agency at a later time.

Unvaccinated patients seeing physicians in the outpatient setting, emergency department setting or the inpatient setting should be offered COVID vaccine, which should be given promptly in these same settings, before the patient leaves. This is rarely happening now. This is a substantial missed opportunity.

One reason for this: the complex system for signing up to administer COVID vaccinations with the state, on MyCaVax. There is an urgent need to make COVID administration in the office no more complex than administering other vaccinations. This could be done by adding COVID to the Vaccine for Children program or the Vaccine for Adults program. Currently, federal regulations are preventing this from happening; this is likely to change soon.

If you have not yet done so, please sign up with MyCaVax to be able to administer vaccines in your office setting (all your offices, all day long!). If you have influence in your local hospitals, ask them to make it a policy to administer COVID vaccine in the emergency department and inpatient setting. If the regulatory barrier seems overwhelming, contact your federal congressional representatives to ask them to advocate for changes needed to tap into this vital channel for vaccine administration.

Just as the summer Olympics start, the torch is passing from public health to clinicians to be the main vaccination channel. Thanks for taking the torch and running with it.

## Breaking News

### Train the Trainer (T3): Primary Care Pain Management Fellowships

#### Tuition Waivers Available

UC Davis' Center for Advancing Pain Relief has collaborated with UC San Diego's Division of Pain Medicine, to offer this year's Train the Trainer (T3): Primary Care Pain Management Fellowships. Full tuition waivers are available to safety-net clinicians in California, which includes FQHCs, RHCs, and county health systems.

For more information, and how to apply, [click here](#).

Applications for fall 2021 are now open, due September 27, 2021.

### DHCS Defines Diagnosis Codes for Social Determinants of Health

In an effort to support and overcome the challenges of collecting Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) data, the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has drafted a list of 24 Priority SDOH Codes. These codes are based on International Classification of Diseases, 10<sup>th</sup> Revision, and Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM), for Managed Care Plans (MCPs) and Providers to utilize when coding for SDOH. The purpose of generating this list is to help ensure the correct coding and capture reliable data. Long-term, MCPs (like Partnership HealthPlan of California) will be able to utilize this data and determine where we might have the greatest impact on identifying and addressing SDOH.

The List:

Code	Description
Z55.0	Illiteracy and low-level literacy
Z59.0	Homelessness
Z59.1	Inadequate housing (lack of heating/space, unsatisfactory surroundings)
Z59.3	Problems related to living in residential institution
Z59.4	Lack of adequate food and safe drinking water
Z59.7	Insufficient social insurance and welfare support
Z59.8	Other problems related to housing and economic circumstances (foreclosure, isolated dwelling, problems with creditors)
Z60.2	Problems related to living alone
Z60.3	Acculturation difficulty (migration, social transplantation)
Z60.4	Social exclusion and rejection (physical appearance, illness or behavior)
Z62.21	Child in welfare custody (non-parental family member, foster care)

Z62.810	Personal history of physical and sexual abuse in childhood
Z62.811	Personal history of psychological abuse in childhood
Z62.812	Personal history of neglect in childhood
Z62.819	Personal history of unspecified abuse in childhood
Z62.820	Parent-biological child conflict
Z63.0	Problems in relationship with spouse or partner
Z63.4	Disappearance & death of family member (assumed death, bereavement)
Z63.5	Disruption of family by separation and divorce (marital estrangement)
Z63.6	Dependent relative needing care at home
Z63.72	Alcoholism and drug addiction in family
Z65.1	Imprisonment and other incarceration
Z65.2	Problems related to release from prison
Z65.8	Other specified problems related to psychosocial circumstances (religious or spiritual problem)

## Summary of Regional Medical Directors Meeting

It was great to see many of you at the virtual Regional Medical Director meeting on May 21. The following materials are available on the Partnership HealthPlan of California (PHC) [website](#):

- Detailed notes: a longer version for leaders and a shorter version to forward to front-line clinicians.
- County profiles, with a focus on pediatric health.
- Handouts on several topics covered at the meeting.

We are hoping to go back to in-person meetings, starting this autumn, if the COVID-19 infection remains well controlled.

## New Process for Issuing Medical Exemptions for Childcare and School Immunizations in California

On January 1, 2021, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) launched the California Immunization Registry – Medical Exemption (CAIR-ME) [website](#) to request, issue, manage, and track medical exemptions from required immunizations for children in child care/preschool and school (grades K-12).

Medical exemptions for children can only be issued using the CAIR-ME website. MDs and DOs licensed in California can register to use CAIR-ME at any time in order to issue a medical exemption. Instructions are available on [CAIR-ME](#) along with on-screen prompts. You can also watch a [webinar](#) and review [slides](#) on how to register and use CAIR-ME.

Please note that documents such as written letters and lab results about immunity do not suffice for school and childcare entry. Schools and child care facilities can only accept immunization records or a medical exemption for immunizations issued through CAIR-ME.

For more information about immunizations required for childcare and school entry, click [here](#). If you have questions, please email [medicalexemptions@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:medicalexemptions@cdph.ca.gov).

## Technical Support Grants to Improve HPSA Scores

After input from our provider network on workforce development needs, PHC is pleased to announce a new technical assistance grant for Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) scoring. HPSA scores are used for prioritization for federal health professional loan repayment programs, which are often used by federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), although clinicians working at some other types of practices are eligible.

### Who is eligible?

Contracted primary care provider organizations who will undergo HPSA review within the next two years are welcome to apply.

### Important Dates:

- Application period: May 10- June 25, 2021
- Awardees Notified: July 2021
- Grant program begins: August 2, 2021

### How to apply:

Visit our Workforce Development page for additional information and to access the grant application (opens on May 10, 2021).

<http://www.partnershiphp.org/Providers/Medi-Cal/Pages/Workforce-Development.aspx>

Please contact our Workforce Development Team with any questions:

[WFDGrants@partnershiphp.org](mailto:WFDGrants@partnershiphp.org)

## Pediatric Telehealth Program

PHC and UC Davis Health (UCD) have partnered to expand access to pediatric specialty care services. These services are now available through the Pediatric Telehealth Program.

### **Benefits for Patients and Providers**

- Improves access to quality health care services.
- Provides real-time outpatient synchronous and asynchronous consultative evaluations.

- Allows peer-to-peer collaboration between PCP's and specialists.
- Ensures continuity of care with proven outcomes to strengthen the medical home.
- Helps to decrease patient travel time and costs.
- Shortens appointment wait times.
- Assists providers in meeting timely access standards.

### Eligibility Requirements

- PHC members 20 years of age and younger with PHC primary or dual coverage.
- Adolescent and pediatric patients must be accompanied by an adult parent or guardian.

AVAILABLE PEDIATRIC SPECIALTIES	
• Allergy and Immunology	• Nephrology
• Cardiology	• Neurology
• Dermatology (store and forward)	• Neuromuscular Disease Medicine
• Endocrinology	• Orthopedics
• ENT/Otolaryngology (cleft and craniofacial)	• Palliative Care
• Gastroenterology	• Pulmonary
• Infectious Disease	• Rheumatology
• Neonatology	• Urology

If you are interested in participating in our telehealth program and would like to learn more about our service offerings, please visit our [Pediatric Telehealth Page](#)

## PHC Educational Opportunities and Events

### Quality & Performance Improvement Training Events

For up-to-date events and trainings by the Quality and Performance Improvement Department, please view our [Quality Events Webpage](#).

Looking for more educational opportunities? The Quality & Performance Improvement Department has many pre-recorded, on-demand courses available to you. Trainings include:

- ABCs of Quality Improvement: An introduction to the basic principles of quality improvement.
- Accelerated Learning Educational Program: An overview of clinical measures including improvement strategies and tools.
- Project Management 101 – An introduction to the basic principles and tools used in project management.

You can find these on-demand courses, and more, on our [Webinars Webpage](#).

## Virtual ABCs of QI

This virtual training consists of five sessions via webinar. The following topics will be covered:

- What is quality improvement?
- Introduction to the Model of Improvement
- How to create an aim statement (project goal)
- How to use data to measure quality and to drive improvement
- Tips for developing change ideas that lead to improvement
- Testing changes with the Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) Cycle

Participants are eligible for 1:1 coaching with an Improvement Advisor after attending. These courses are FREE. All webinars are scheduled noon to 1 p.m. on the dates below. Ideally they are taken in sequence, but it is OK to sign up for just one or two.

**Target Audience:** Clinicians, practice managers and quality improvement team who are new or need a refresher on the basic principles of quality improvement.

### Session 5 of 5: Understanding the Role of Measurement in Quality Improvement

**Description:** In Session 5, we will cover the use of the Plan-Do-Study-Act Cycle and the required steps from testing to implementing changes.

**Date:** Wednesday, June 30, 2021

**Time:** Noon – 1 p.m.

[Sign-up Now](#)

## Benefits of Home Blood Pressure Monitoring Webinar

Join PHC to learn the benefits of home blood pressure monitoring – how it can help patients and providers.

**Targeted Audience:** Clinicians, practice managers, quality improvement team, and staff who are responsible for participating and leading quality improvement efforts within their organization.

### Objectives

- Increase home blood pressure monitoring for hypertensive members
- Review Partnership's Medical Equipment Distribution Services Program
- Review best and promising practices including successful clinical workflows, member and staff education, and outreach
- Review documentation requirements for remote blood pressure monitoring to maximize adherence and measure performance

**Date:** Tuesday, July 06, 2021

**Time:** Noon – 1 p.m.

[Sign-up Now](#)

## Accelerated Learning Education Programs

These learning sessions will cover PHC's Primary Care Provider Quality Incentive Program measures.

**Targeted Audience:** Clinicians, practice managers, quality managers, quality improvement team, and staff who are responsible for participating and leading quality improvement efforts within their organization.

### Improving Asthma Care and the Asthma Medication Ratio

[Flyer](#)

**Date:** Wednesday, July 14, 2021

**Time:** Noon – 1 p.m.

[Sign-up Now](#)

### Child and Adolescent Well-Care Visits (3-17 years)

[Flyer](#)

**Date:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021

**Time:** Noon – 1 p.m.

[Sign-up Now](#)

## The Role of Leadership in Quality Improvement Efforts – Interview with Top-Performing Leaders

Leaders from top-performing organizations will share how they were able to build a culture of quality.

**Target Audience:** This course is intended for executive leaders, managers, and supervisors.

The focus of this training is to:

- Understand the role of leadership in quality
- Learn how to successfully build a culture of quality from proven leaders
- Understand how a culture of quality impacts an organization
- Learn the key principles to improving quality

### Petaluma Health Center

Leadership includes CEO and CMO

**Date:** Thursday, September 23, 2021

**Time:** Noon – 1 p.m.

[Sign-up Now](#)

### Community Medical Center

Leadership includes CMO, COO, Director of Quality, and FNP

**Date:** Tuesday, October 05, 2021

**Time:** 11 a.m. – Noon

[Sign-up Now](#)

## Recommended Educational Opportunities Outside of PHC

### CIN Partner Meeting – Building Back Better: A Resilient Primary Care Workforce

This partner meeting of the California Improvement Network (CIN) aimed to continue to establish network connections and build relationships among partners with the goal of accelerating the spread of innovation in care delivery. As the only network in California that brings together commercial and safety-net provider organizations, health plans, and quality improvement groups, CIN fosters valuable cross-sector relationships across the state. To learn more about our priority areas and how to participate, visit [About CIN](#).

This virtual meeting focused on one of CIN's priority areas for learning and action – resilient leadership: culture of wellness. [Watch the recorded virtual meeting](#).

[CIN Resource Page: Building a Resilient Primary Care Workforce](#)

### Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth

Rachel Hardeman, PhD, MPH of the University of Minnesota developed an interactive training course and resources for perinatal providers focused on implicit bias and reproductive justice.

These resources are developed in accordance with the training requirements outlines in the California Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act ([Senate Bill 464](#)) that went into effect in January 2020.

All of the e-learning modules and resources developed for this project will be available free of charge. This project was funded by the [California Health Care Foundation](#) in response to strong evidence of racial inequalities in perinatal care and outcomes.

[Free Perinatal Health Equity Resources](#)

### UpSkillMA Courses by the Weitzman Institute

UpSkillMA provides practicing Medical Assistants with next level training and expertise to excel in high-performing Primary Care teams. Participants learn at their own pace through an online platform that is user friendly, secure, and HIPAA Compliant.

[Click here for course information and to sign-up](#).

### CSAM 2021 Addiction Medicine Review Course and Board Exam Preparation Track

*Registration Deadline: August 16, 2021*

CME/MOC Credit Available

More Information, Cost & Registration: <https://csam-asam.org/page/CSAM-2021-Conference>

## **Pre-Conference Workshops**

Addressing Racial and Ethnic Bias in Addiction Systems of Care

**Date:** Wednesday, August 25, 2021

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Updates in Medications for Opioid Use Disorder

**Date:** Thursday, August 26, 2021

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Psychiatry for the Addiction Physician

**Date:** Thursday, August 26, 2021

**Time:** 1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Widening the Lens: Complementary and Lifestyle Approaches to the Treatment of Substance Use Disorder

**Date:** Friday, August 27, 2021

**Time:** 1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

## **Addiction Medicine Board Exam Preparation Track**

The Board Exam Preparation Track takes place over a span of four days during the conference. It is designed for those preparing to take the American Board of Preventive Medicine (ABPM) Addiction Medicine Board Exam and is aligned with the Board's exam content Blueprint. The faculty of experienced educators will cover 16 key topic areas, with sample exam questions and rationale provided for answers. Test-taking and study tips will be covered. Attendees will have access to review these recorded sessions through November. Access to the High Yield Question Bank is included.

**Dates:** August 31 – September 03, 2021