

Talk to Our Members About the Flu Vaccine

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) recommends a yearly flu vaccine for most people 6 months and older as the first and most important action in **reducing the risk of flu** and its potentially serious outcomes. We encourage you to educate our members about flu risks and the benefits of annual flu vaccinations. We've created [resources](#) to help.

Why are flu vaccines important? Flu infection can cause serious problems for young children, the elderly, pregnant women and people with certain medical conditions, such as asthma and heart disease. Annual flu vaccination may help prevent illness and reduce illness severity, hospitalizations and intensive care unit admissions, according to the CDC. Check the [CDC website for](#) the most recent updates on the 2024-25 flu vaccines.

Tips to consider: Discussing the following with our members may help them feel more informed:

- The vaccine's benefits and effectiveness
- Side effects that could occur after receiving the vaccine
- Flu symptoms
- Patients' concerns regarding the vaccine

Always check eligibility and benefits first for each member at every visit. Flu shots are typically covered as a preventive service, but there may be some exceptions. If you have questions, call the number on the member's ID card.

Resources

For Texas Medicaid Provider Quality Improvement, review the following resources ranging from quality measures data to current vaccine schedules:

- [Preventive Care Guidelines](#)
- [Clinical Practice Guidelines](#)
- [ImmTrac2](#) Texas Immunization Registry
- [Quality Improvement Toolkit and Tip Sheets](#) for Medicaid providers
- [Texas Health Steps](#) for Medical Providers

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