

**What is AFIX?**

AFIX is a CDC continuous quality improvement process using evidence based strategies. The AFIX goal is to decrease vaccine preventable illnesses by increasing immunization coverage rates.

**What does *Assessment* Involve?**

Practices complete a questionnaire assessing their use of evidence based interventions related to immunizations. Coverage reports for childhood and teen vaccines are prepared using the Vermont Immunization Registry. Because data is furnished to the registry by providers and by insurers, it is a robust database.

**How is *Feedback* Provided?**

The District Office Immunization Designee, a public health nurse, leads a one hour Feedback meeting with the provider, the practice immunization champion and other staff who contribute to the work of immunizing at the practice. Coverage rates are shared in the context of the practice's responses to the questionnaire and the practice's goals and current initiatives. There is discussion of evidence based strategies and how they could be implemented. Practices select 2-3 strategies and develop a simple, do-able plan to fit the activities into the work flow.

**What are some examples of *Incentives*?**

- The Program purchases over \$15 million in vaccine annually for universal use and supplies continuous temperature monitoring devices.
- The Program supplies CDC laminated Immunization Schedules each year, provides trainings and educational materials for practitioners and supplies patient education materials and hosts the [It's Ok to Ask](#) website.
- Alternating years, an Immunization and Infectious Disease Conference is held as an opportunity for continuing education and connection with local and national experts.
- Each spring, an individual is selected from local nominees, as Vermont's CDC Childhood Immunization Champion. Providers who have met the Healthy People2020 Targets for selected immunizations (as of prior December) are recognized.

**What is *eXchange*?**

eXchange of information takes place at a 20-minute follow-up meeting, usually between 3 and 5 months after the Feedback session. This is time for the practice to reassess and look at what is working. The public health nurse provides new Registry generated coverage reports. At eXchange, practices often hear good news of improved coverage rates and more protected patients. This is a time to refocus on strengthening what is working, and to refine strategies as needed.

Thank you for your interest in providing quality comprehensive immunization services!