

# Health-System Pharmacists' Practice Update on Immunization and Preventable Disease Management

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## Program Overview

New developments in preventable disease research and immunization product development are frequent, making it a challenge for busy health-system pharmacists to stay current. In 2007, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) issued new recommendations for prevention and control of varicella (chicken pox), influenza, meningococcal disease, and human papillomavirus (HPV) infection. In 2006, new vaccine products for the prevention of herpes zoster (shingles) in the elderly, active booster immunization against pertussis (whooping cough) in adults and adolescents, and prevention of rotavirus gastroenteritis in infants were introduced. Considerable morbidity and mortality are associated with these diseases. Ongoing research addresses the prevention of these and other diseases and conditions with a large adverse impact on public health. A nicotine vaccine to help smokers quit and a vaccine against the human immunodeficiency virus are the subject of ongoing research that could yield immunization products with a large societal benefit.

This program will provide an overview of the prevalence, morbidity, and mortality in adults associated with herpes zoster, influenza, meningococcal disease, pertussis, and HPV infection. Recent changes to the ACIP recommendations for immunization and information about the efficacy, safety, and administration of new immunization products also will be discussed. The status of research efforts to develop immunization products with a large potential public health benefit will be briefly described. Finally, the role of the health-system pharmacist as an advisor on immunizations in preventing disease will be addressed.