

## Making Mpox Vaccine Recommendations: Additional Considerations

Vaccination is the most important tool we have in stopping the spread of mpox and a strong provider recommendation may increase vaccine uptake. Alerting patients to the upcoming change in cost and commercialization of JYNNEOS may also increase vaccine uptake. Per the National Coalition for Sexual Health (NCSH) mpox focus groups, messages about vaccine safety and side effects, reducing symptoms of mpox by getting vaccinated, vaccine effectiveness, and current risk of getting mpox most appealed to the target audience. Educational materials are available (digital ads, social media captions, flyers, postcards, and palm cards) and can be used or adapted to assist with vaccine recommendations and education.

Vaccine hesitancy can stem from several issues, such as a lack of *confidence* (in effectiveness, safety, and the health care system), *complacency* (perceived low risk of acquiring mpox), and lack of *convenience* (in availability and accessibility). If patients are uneasy about receiving the vaccine, here are a few talking points derived from the <u>American Medical Association</u> (AMA):

- Address patients' fears about side effects.
  - O Ask a patient how they feel about mpox and the vaccine for mpox.
- Ask why a patient is hesitant.
  - You can ask, "What have you heard about JYNNEOS?"
- Counter any misinformation.
  - As a clinician, you should correct any misinformation a patient may have encountered that is preventing them from getting the vaccine.
- Know you are the most trusted information source
  - Research shows patients look to their local doctor for healthcare guidance. Continue to build on that trusted relationship.
- Tailor your message.
  - o Focus the discussion on how getting a vaccine can help protect a loved one.
- Understand your patients' concerns.
  - Physicians should build trust, recognizing what a patient has experienced so they can then move forward.

CDC launched a new interactive online training for health care professionals called "Fostering a Culture of Immunization in Your Practice". This self-guided online course provides health care professionals with practical strategies and resources to help create a positive culture of immunization in their clinics, ensuring the best possible care for patients and promoting vaccination efforts. It consists of four segments:

- Lesson I Fostering a Culture of Immunization
- Lesson II Importance of Immunization and Factors Impacting Vaccine Uptake
- Lesson III 5 Strategies for Fostering a Culture of Immunization
- Scenario Based Learning Activity

Visit <u>CDC TRAIN</u> to complete and receive continuing education (CE) credit for the course.

## **Additional Information**

CDC Standards for Practice: Vaccine Recommendations