



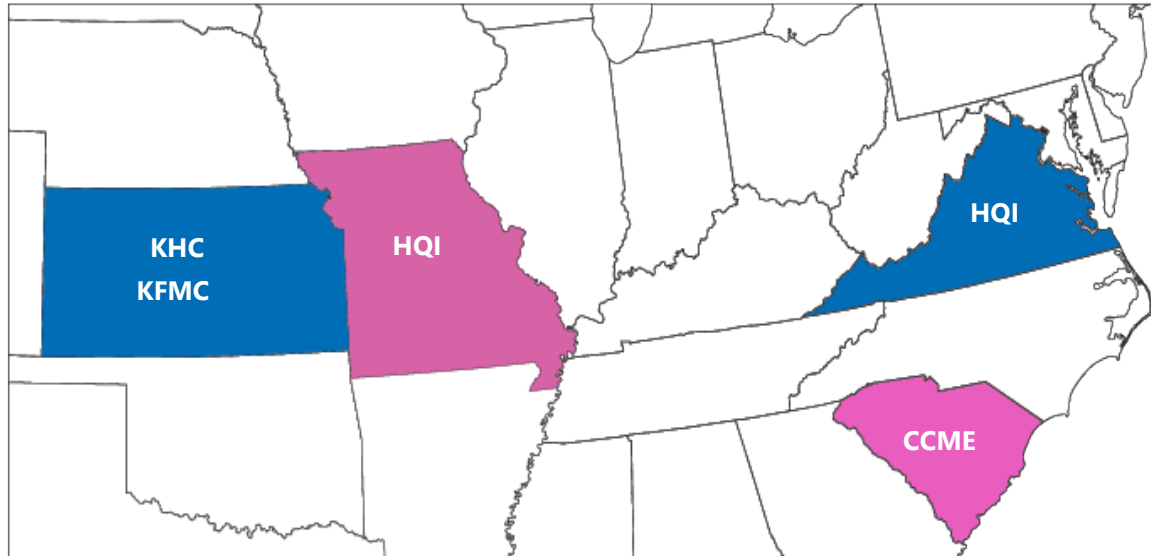
Health Quality Innovation Network

Weekly Dose Office Hours

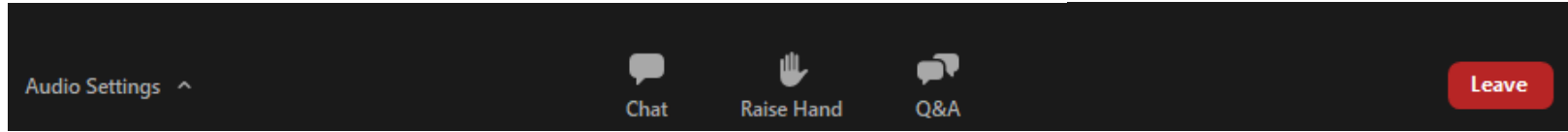
Pandemic Prepared: Partnering with Pharmacists

April 27, 2022

Health Quality Innovation Network



Logistics – Zoom Webinar



To ask a question, click on the **Q&A** icon.

Raise your hand if you want to verbally ask a question.

Resources from today's session will be posted in **Chat**.

You may adjust your audio by clicking **Audio Settings**.

You have been automatically muted with video turned off.

Your Team



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Quality Improvement
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Goals for Weekly Vaccine and Booster Education:

- Improving booster uptake
- Current knowledge updates
- A forum for vaccine and booster questions
- Interactive, peer-to-peer collaboration
- A “safe space” to talk
- Best practices and innovative idea sharing
- Tips for improving resident and staff safety



The content presented in this webinar is based on COVID-19 information and guidance as of the date of this session.

Learning Objectives

- Describe the factors that may contribute to polypharmacy
- Identify at least 4 specific areas pharmacists can assist with medication and dosing
- Explain why LTC pharmacists add value to the nursing home clinical and staff team
- Discuss ways pharmacists can address COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy



Medications: The Right Balance

“Patients over 65 years old bear the greatest burden of illness and thus are the greatest beneficiaries of drugs to prevent, ameliorate, or treat conditions.”



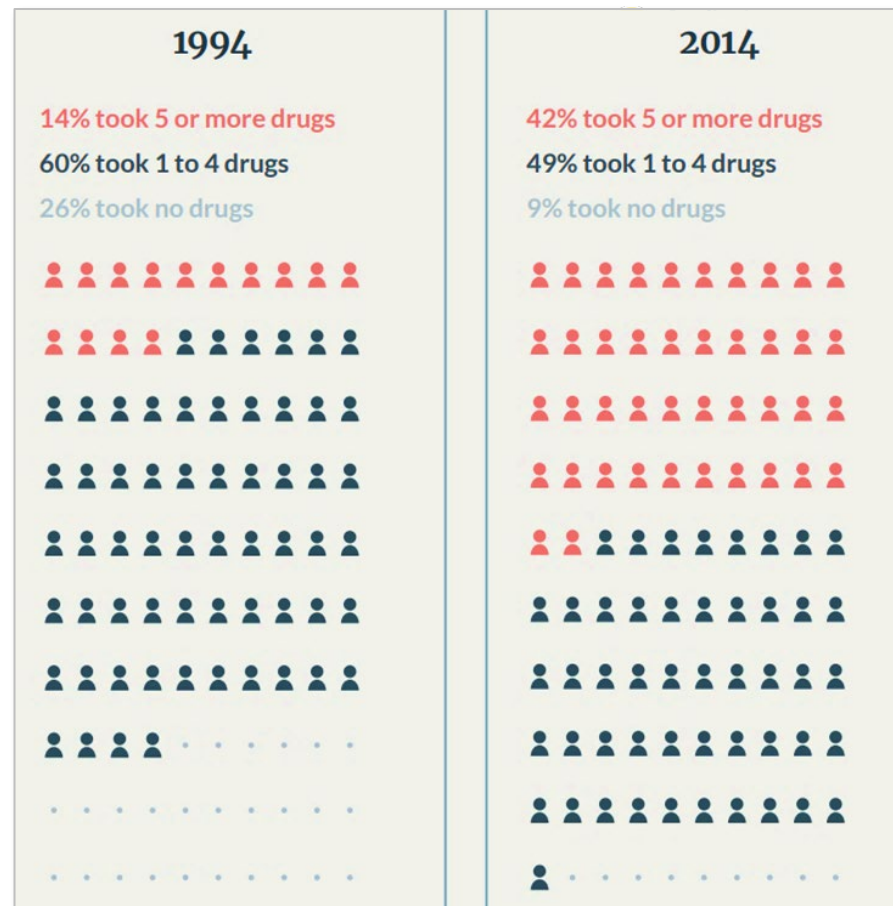
“Any new symptom in an older patient should be considered a possible drug side effect until proved otherwise.”

Polypharmacy is Increasing

From 1994 to 2014, the proportion of older adults taking five or more drugs tripled, from 13.8% to 42.4%.



When OTC medications and dietary supplements are included, the number of older adults regularly taking 5 or more drugs or dietary supplements is 67%.



Prescribing Cascades

DRUG 1

Adverse Event
Misinterpreted as New
Medical Condition

DRUG 2

Adverse Drug Event

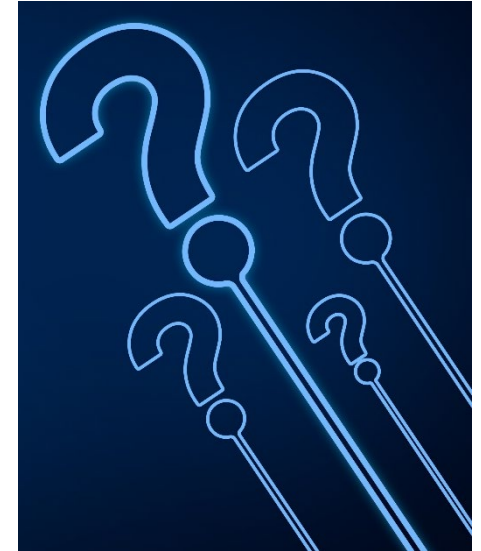


Rochon PA, Gurwitz JH. The Prescribing Cascade Revisited. Lancet 2017;389:1778-1780. DOI:
[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(17\)31188-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(17)31188-1)

Polling Question 1

Does your facility currently use your contracted pharmacy provider to address (select all that apply):

- A. Alternatives to medications
- B. Antibiotic stewardship
- C. Dosing or medication challenges
- D. COVID-19 vaccination education



Addressing Polypharmacy and Maximizing Pharmacists' Expertise

- Use non-medication approaches when possible
- Use pharmacists to recommend:
 - Gradual dose reductions or tapering
 - Evaluating the need for PPIs
 - Medication that needs labs, etc.
 - Antibiotic stewardship
- Obtain support/suggestions from the pharmacist for:
 - Medication refusal/solutions
 - Administration/dosing
- Vaccination support/recommendations included in medication review
 - Vaccines are medications



COVID-19 Vaccinations

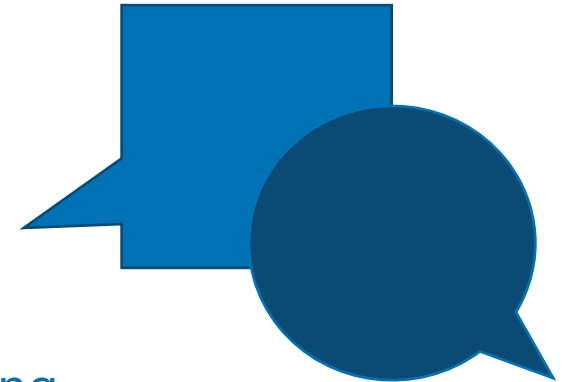
Questions your pharmacist may be able to assist in providing information:

1. Was the vaccine rushed to market and does that make it unsafe?
2. Will the vaccine give me COVID-19?
3. Is my DNA being altered by the vaccine?
4. Shouldn't I just use my body's natural immunity once I contract COVID-19?
5. What about side effects and how severe are they?



Elements of Effective Vaccine Conversations

- Start from a place of empathy and understanding
- Assume residents will want to be vaccinated but be prepared for questions
- Give your strong, positive recommendations
- Address misinformation by sharing key facts
- Listen to and respond to patient questions
- Proactively explain side effects
- Proactively implement motivational interviewing techniques when appropriate

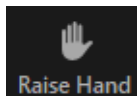


Pharmacy Resources

- Tapering/deprescribing app: deprescribing.org (go to "resources")
- STOPP/START criteria
- [Medstopper.com](https://www.medstopper.com)
- [ACIP Vaccine Recommendations and Guidelines | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz/downloads/acip/)
- [American Geriatrics Society 2019 Updated AGS Beers Criteria® for Potentially Inappropriate Medication Use in Older Adults \(uclahealth.org\)](https://www.uclahealth.org/geriatrics/medication-review)



Are Pharmacists Involved with Boosters? Share What is Working for Your Team!



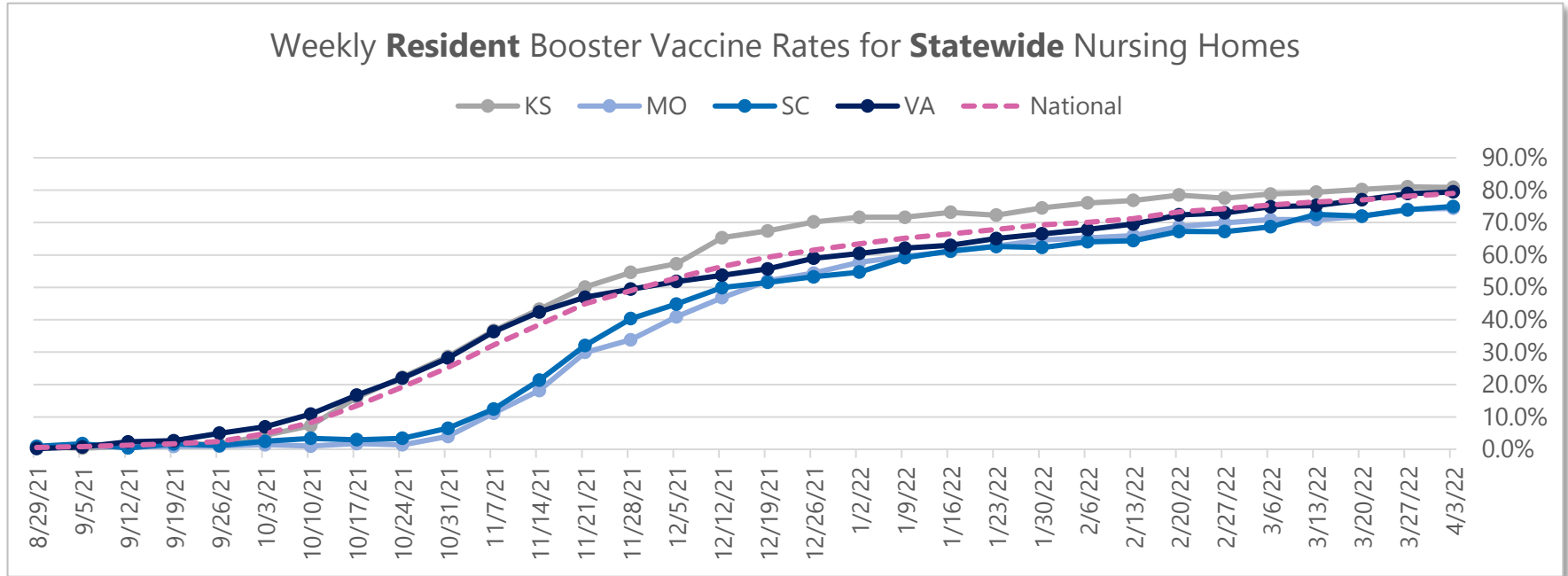
Raise your hand to verbally ask a question



Type a question by clicking the **Q&A** icon

*Don't hesitate to ask a question after the webinar is over.
Email LTC@hqi.solutions or your HQIN Quality Improvement Advisor.*

Booster Data



Weekly HQIN Resource

Getting the Flu and Pneumococcal Vaccines this Year is More Important Than Ever!

Why Take the Vaccine?

- By getting vaccinated, you will protect yourself, loved ones, and your community from flu and pneumonia
- They can keep you from getting sick with the flu and pneumonia
- They are important preventive tools for people with chronic health conditions
- They will help reduce the severity of illness if you still get sick with the flu or pneumonia

The Facts

- Flu and pneumonia vaccines cannot cause you to get sick with the flu and pneumonia
- Flu and pneumonia vaccines will not make you more susceptible to COVID-19 or other respiratory infections
- You need to get the flu vaccine EVERY year
- It takes up to two weeks to build up your immunity to protect you from the flu
- As long as the flu is circulating it is not too late to get the flu vaccine
- You can receive both the flu and pneumonia vaccine at the same time
- If you just received the flu or pneumonia vaccine, you do not have to wait 14 days to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and vice versa. Talk with your doctor
- All adults age 65 years or older should get the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23)
 - First, you should receive the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13)
 - Then one year later receive the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23) for full protection

[Simple Strategies for Resident Flu and Pneumococcal Vaccines | hqin.org](https://www.hqin.org)

New Booster Education for Family, Resident

COVID-19 Booster Shots

Public health experts have found that COVID-19 booster shots increase and extend the protection provided by the COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccination helps us all stay up to date with reliable protection from hospitalization and death. Also, it helps us resume group activities safely.

Who Should Get It?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone ages 12 years and older receive a COVID-19 vaccine booster after completing their primary COVID-19 vaccination series. Depending on your age and immunity, you may be eligible to get more than one booster.

Is It Safe?

The CDC has been providing guidance on vaccines for 70 years. CDC scientists work with experts all over the world to provide the best vaccines to prevent illnesses. Vaccines have been given for hundreds of years. As children, we had multiple lifesaving vaccines and boosters for illnesses such as smallpox, mumps, tetanus and polio. We have yearly influenza vaccines to decrease our risk of getting the flu.



Equal precautions were taken in developing and approving the vaccine tested on more people more quickly (because of the universal demand) and found to be safe and trustworthy. Hundreds of millions of people in the U.S. The COVID-19 vaccinations are continually

to get COVID-19 and are not terribly ill, which is a good thing. People who get hospitalized more severely ill or dying are unvaccinated or under-vaccinated. This prevents many cases and vaccinated people who get COVID-

the worst toll on our older citizens. People over the age of 65 with a weaker immune system especially benefit from boosters because their immunity is lower. The vaccines will not make COVID-19 go away, but they will help to keep us and our loved ones from getting very ill and

[COVID-19
Booster Shots
\(hqin.org\)](https://www.hqin.org)




Visit the [CDC's website](https://www.cdc.gov) to learn more.

This material was prepared by Health Quality Innovators (HQI), a Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Views expressed in this material do not necessarily reflect the official views or policy of CMS or HHS, and any reference to a specific product or entity herein does not constitute endorsement of that product or entity by CMS or HHS. 1250W/HQI/QIN-QIO-0204-04/20/22



Did YOU Get Your Weekly Dose?



The latest guidance, resources, and updates for nursing home staff on COVID-19 vaccines and boosters.


The Weekly Dose

HQIN
Health Quality Innovation Network

The *Weekly Dose* is a brief bulletin that provides you with the latest guidance and information to support vaccine uptake. As your Medicare Quality Innovation Network – Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO), our team of nursing home experts at the [Health Quality Innovation Network \(HQIN\)](#) is dedicated to helping you increase your vaccination rates. Please [contact us](#) with questions.

OFFICE HOURS: Pandemic Prepared: Partnering With Pharmacists
Wednesday, April 27 at 2 p.m. ET / 1 p.m. CT

Does your team partner with pharmacists to the fullest extent? The next Office Hours event will feature strategies to establish and maximize a close working relationship with pharmacists. You may be missing out on opportunities such as assistance with comprehensive medication reviews, pharmacy assessments and deprescribing.



Join our team of experts as they share knowledge, opportunities and potential workflows.

Want to submit questions in advance of this session? Email LTC@hqj.solutions.

NOTE: The registration link will allow you to sign up for the next Office Hours as well as upcoming sessions.

[Register Now!](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has provided options for long-term care administrators and managers to consider when [coordinating access to COVID-19 vaccines](#) for residents and staff.

Learn about the state and local immunization programs available in your area that can assist you with vaccine administration in the community or on-site.

[Visit CDC's COVID-19 Access in LTC Setting Webpage](#)

Weekly Dose Office Hours: Communication Bites for Staff

Weekly text or email messaging:

Arm yourself with the best defense for many diseases –
vaccines!

Building On Your Resources

HQIN Resources

- [Nursing Home COVID-19 Vaccination Booster Action Plan and Resources](#)
- [Vaccine Administration Process Guide](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination & Booster Tracking Tool](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Educational Resources for Long Term Care Facilities](#)
- [Simple Strategies for Encouraging Staff to Receive the Influenza Vaccine](#)
- [COVID-19: Best Practices for Patient Communication](#)
- [Staff Mental Health Wellbeing Action Plan Template](#)
- [Simple Strategies – Staff Mental Health](#)
- [Staff Mental Health and Wellbeing Resources](#)
- [Pause for Prevention Module 8: Caring for Yourself During an Infectious Disease Outbreak or Pandemic](#)
- [Ideas That Work - Circle Back \(hqin.org\)](#)
- [Infection Prevention Measures and Community Transmission Rates](#)



Additional Resources

- [V-safe Poster](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots](#)
- [Booster Clinics Pharmacy Partnerships](#)
- [ACIP Vaccine Recommendations and Guidelines](#)
- [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Approved or Authorized in the United States](#)
- [Summary Document for Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized or Approved in the United States](#)
- [Vaccinations and Older Adults | National Institute on Aging \(nih.gov\)](#)
- [Well-Being Concepts | HRQOL | CDC](#)
- [Your CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record and Vaccination Card | CDC](#)
- [COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation | CDC](#)



Next Session:

**Back to the Future: Living
Safely in the Time of COVID-19**

Wednesday, May 4

2:00 p.m. EST | 1:00 p.m. CST



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call 877.731.4746 or visit www.hqin.org

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From HQIN:

To all essential care giving teams
supporting residents and families,

Thank you for attending