Key Events for Vaccination Opportunities

Throughout the year, several events present perfect opportunities to approach your patients about vaccines that may be relevant to them. Here are just a few of these events.
WINTER TRAVEL
It is important that your patients know that some international travel destinations, especially developing countries and rural areas, have higher health risks and that vaccines can help protect against a number of serious vaccine-preventable diseases.¹

AMERICAN HEART MONTH
People with heart disease may have a higher risk of developing serious complications from certain diseases, including those that may be vaccine-preventable.²

NATIONAL KIDNEY MONTH
People with end-stage renal disease, including predialysis, hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, and home dialysis patients, are at-risk for developing hepatitis B infection and should receive hepatitis B vaccination.³
NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK: FIRST FULL WEEK IN APRIL
Vaccinations help keep our communities healthy. The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program offers vaccines at no cost to eligible children. But children aren’t the only ones for whom vaccination is recommended. You can help by educating your adult patients on vaccinations that might be recommended for them.

WORLD IMMUNIZATION WEEK: FOURTH FULL WEEK IN APRIL
Vaccines protect the future health of all populations. The sustainable and equitable introduction of new vaccines and increasing coverage with underutilized vaccines can greatly reduce vaccine preventable disease (VPD) morbidity and mortality. Be sure to take time to talk to your patients about the importance of vaccinations for their entire family.

HEPATITIS AWARENESS MONTH
Vaccination can help prevent hepatitis A and hepatitis B. Take time to identify potentially at-risk patients and speak to them about hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccination.

MOTHER’S DAY: SECOND SUNDAY IN MAY
Your patients may be spending Mother’s Day with their extended family, including infants. Encourage adolescents and adults who will be in close contact with an infant to get vaccinated against whooping cough.

SUMMER TRAVEL
Vaccine-preventable diseases that are rare in the United States are still found in numerous popular travel destinations around the world. Be sure your patients are up-to-date on their travel vaccines before they head off on their summer trips.
PREPARING FOR FLU SEASON
Before flu season officially hits, remind your patients of the importance of vaccinating before onset of influenza activity in the community and, if possible, by the end of October.

NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS DAY: SECOND SUNDAY IN SEPTEMBER
New grandparents may not be aware of the importance of being vaccinated against whooping cough. Take advantage of this time to inform your patients that everyone, including those in close contact with infants, should be up-to-date with their whooping cough vaccinations.
NATIONAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION WEEK: FIRST FULL WEEK IN DECEMBER
According to the CDC, the single best way to protect against the flu is to get a flu vaccine annually. Take time this week to encourage your patients who have not yet been vaccinated to get vaccinated to help protect them during this flu season.

AMERICAN DIABETES MONTH & WORLD DIABETES DAY ON NOVEMBER 14
It is particularly important that people with diabetes are vaccinated against hepatitis B as they have higher risk for hepatitis B than the general population. They are also at risk of developing serious flu-related complications if not vaccinated against the flu. This month, educate people with diabetes on the importance of these vaccines. Refer to the CDC recommendations for appropriate age groups for vaccination with hepatitis B and other vaccinations that may be appropriate for patients with diabetes.

NATIONAL HEALTH EDUCATION WEEK: THIRD FULL WEEK OF OCTOBER
Getting vaccinated may help you stay healthy all year round. Use this week to focus on educating your patients on the importance of immunizations for every stage of their life.
References:


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