



# Implementing standing orders for immunizations

The seven steps below describe how to implement standing orders for immunizations in health care practices. Standing orders are written protocols that authorize qualified health care professionals—such as nurses or pharmacists—to assess and administer vaccines without a physician order if patients meet defined criteria.

Implementing standing orders can streamline workflows, increase vaccination rates and reduce missed immunization opportunities.

## Seven steps to implement standing orders

1. **Secure leadership support:** Gain buy-in from medical directors, clinicians, nurse leaders and legal counsel by discussing benefits and addressing potential obstacles.
2. **Identify a program champion:** Appoint a motivated and knowledgeable leader, such as a nurse or physician assistant, to oversee the program.
3. **Select vaccines:** Start with one vaccine (e.g., influenza) and expand as staff gain confidence.
4. **Develop protocols:** Use or adapt free-standing order templates from a verified organization, such as [Immunize.org](https://www.immunize.org) and have them signed by the medical director or authorized clinician.
5. **Describe staff roles:** Assign responsibilities for assessing vaccination needs, checking records and screening for contraindications.
6. **Educate staff:** Explain the purpose of the program's benefits and procedures to ensure staff buy-in and understanding.
7. **Assess the program:** Regularly review its effectiveness, track vaccination rates and consider expanding to additional vaccines.

**Additional strategies to improve vaccination delivery** include tracking improvement in immunization rates, using EHR prompts, offering walk-in vaccination visits, holding clinics during extended hours and optimizing vaccine storage, administration and documentation.

Implementing standing orders streamlines operations, enhances patient care and protects against vaccine-preventable diseases.

To access a comprehensive approach to implementing standing orders in health care settings, please visit the Immunize.org webpage [Steps to Implementing Standing Orders for Immunization in Your Practice Setting](https://www.immunize.org/standing-orders).