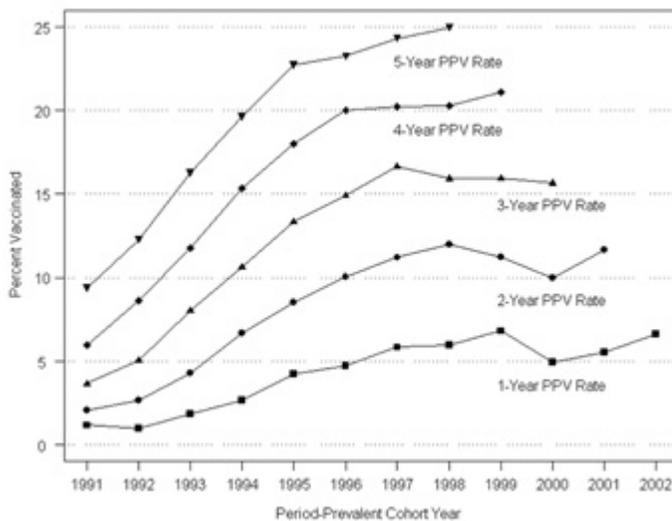**Pneumococcal Vaccination Rates as Indicated by Medicare Claims among End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Patients.**

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The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends that ESRD patients receive pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPV) once per 5 years. To assess compliance with this recommendation, we calculated PPV administration rates on the basis of Medicare claims data. We analyzed period-prevalent ESRD patients from 1991 to 2002. For each year, patients were prevalent at least 90 days before December 31 of the previous year; were alive on December 31 of the previous year; carried Medicare as primary payer and Medicare Part B coverage throughout the entire follow-up period; and survived throughout the entire follow-up period. PPV administration was indicated by the presence of CPT code 90732, G0009, or J6065 in either Medicare Part A Outpatient or Medicare Part B claims. The percentage of all ESRD patients vaccinated and dialysis patients vaccinated was calculated for follow-up periods of length 1 year, 2 years, 3 years, 4 years, and 5 years.

One-year PPV administration rates increased steadily to a peak of 6.8% of patients in 1999, but have not exhibited growth since that time. Three-year PPV administration rates increased to a peak of 16.7% of patients in 1997, but have declined some since then. Five-year PPV administration rates have continued to increase to a new peak of 25.0% of patients in 1998. Rates among dialysis patients exhibited similar patterns, although such rates were as much as 2 percentage points higher than corresponding rates among all ESRD patients. In both populations, white patients exhibited higher rates than patients of other races. Still, PPV rates are below Healthy People 2010 objectives of 60% and 90% among high-risk patients younger than 65 years and all patients older than 65, respectively.