You are a trusted source of information for dialysis patients. When discussing vaccinations with patients, use the following talking points to help provide accurate information, especially with those patients who have misinformation and may be reluctant to receive the recommended vaccines. You can make a positive difference in the life of a kidney patient by talking about vaccinations with your patients today!

# **PATIENT BELIEF: I DON’T NEED THE VACCINE, getting sick is not that serious**

## **TALKING POINTs: Vaccine Benefits**

* Protect your lungs, protect your life! Both influenza (the flu) and pneumonia can cause severe illness, hospitalization, and even death.
* People with kidney disease on dialysis have a high risk of becoming severely sick from the flu and pneumonia.
* Getting vaccines for both the flu and pneumonia significantly reduces your risk from becoming severely sick. If you do get the flu or pneumonia after vaccination, you are more likely to have a mild case that may not lead to hospitalization.
* Getting vaccinated helps keep people around you from getting sick.

# **PATIENT BELIEF: vaccines are not safe and make me sick**

## **Talking points: vaccine safety and history**

* Vaccines are safe, well-studied, and have been around for many decades. The flu vaccine was developed almost 80 years ago, since the 1940s, and the pneumonia vaccine almost 50 years ago, since the 1970s.
* The flu shot has one of the best vaccine safety records.
* Vaccines do not cause illness. You can have side effects, which are usually mild and the body’s natural reaction to making you protected against the flu and pneumonia.

# **PATIENT BELIEF: I HAVE HAD VACCINEs BEFORE AND I Don't need another one**

## **Talking points: vaccine timing**

* The flu virus changes every year, so the vaccine is made each year to best match that year’s flu virus. Getting the updated flu shot makes sure you are protected.
* There are different types of pneumonia vaccines. Talk with your nurse today to make sure you have had the up-to-date pneumonia vaccine. You can get the pneumonia vaccine any time of the year.