

Health Care Worker Influenza Vaccination

result in better health outcomes for staff and patients?

**Influenza.
Don't get it.
Don't give it.**



Rationale for pursuing issue:

Influenza is a high profile New Zealand public health issue, affecting 1 in 5 New Zealander's each year. Influenza causes significant morbidities, hospital admissions, considerable increase in medical consultations annually and can even result in death.

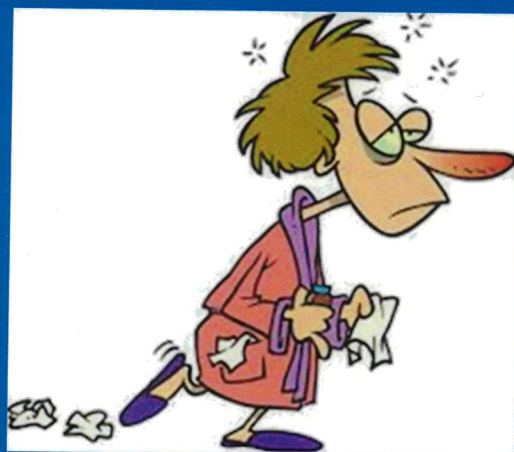
Currently there is a national health focus to increase influenza vaccination uptake among all Health Care Worker (HCW). All DHB's across NZ are providing the influenza vaccine free to all staff members.

However despite the current push for HCW influenza vaccination, uptake remains very poor. Approximately 48% of all DHB employees received an influenza vaccination in 2013.

My Findings: Research shows that increased vaccination rates among HCW causes:

- ⇒ Decreased rates of hospital-acquired influenza and influenza like among patients.
- ⇒ Rest homes that had a higher uptake of the vaccine had substantially less influenza-like illness, mortality rates, hospitalisations and medical consultations
- ⇒ Significantly decreased rates of influenza and a reduction of reported febrile illness in staff members
- ⇒ Studies consistently identified a statistically significant reduction in influenza-like-illness and febrile illness among HCW, this did not always translate to a relative decrease in sick days taken. This indicates that HCW are likely to continue to work.

Don't let the
FLU KNOCK YOU
Get immunised.



Implications

Increased HCW vaccination directly impacts the health and safety of their patients and staff.

- ⇒ Unvaccinated HCW are placing their patients at risk of a preventable harm
- ⇒ Health professionals have an ethical obligation to take all reasonable precautions to protect patients from undue illness.
- ⇒ Health care professionals are continuing to work whilst sick, thus exposing influenza to vulnerable patients, co-workers and family members

Barriers to getting immunised:

- ⇒ Doubting efficacy of vaccine
- ⇒ Lack of personal concern from influenza
- ⇒ Fear of adverse side effects.
- ⇒ Fear of injections
- ⇒ HCW do often not recognise their role in influenza transmission to patients or families, seeing themselves as low risk.

Recommendations

- ⇒ Education programmes and in-service teaching sessions within the Health care environment. These education sessions must address the efficacy and benefits of the vaccination, the seriousness of the disease, the HCW role in influenza transmission and place an emphasis on the staff's duty of care to patients.
- ⇒ Creating mandatory vaccination policies has been utilised with significant success in the United States

References:

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PECOT category	Information relating to question	Explanation
Population	All healthcare workers in acute and long-term hospital setting.	Healthcare workers across all settings are working with vulnerable patients and themselves are exposed to a variety of bacteria. They are at high risk for acquiring influenza as well as transmitting the disease. They are a group of people who have a privilege to be working in such close proximity to patients they have a responsibility to protect these patients.
Exposure	A higher proportion of vaccination rates in healthcare settings.	We will be looking for articles that use case-control studies and randomised control trials in which higher or increased vaccination rates within a healthcare setting are compared with previously lower rates of immunisation cover-
Comparison/Control	A lower proportion of influenza immunisation coverage in healthcare personnel.	We are interested to compare the health outcomes of proportionally lower vaccine uptake in health settings against what outcomes we observe when immunisation rates increase.
Outcome	Decreased nosocomial influenza in healthcare setting Less reported febrile illness and influenza amongst healthcare workers Less absenteeism among health care workers	These outcomes are what are expected as a result of increasing immunisation rates. They indicate positive health outcomes for patients and workers.
Time	1 year	The flu vaccination is administered each year as each year it targets a different strain. To accurately assess the impact of HCW vaccination we need to look at how influenza vaccination rates

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