

Preventing nosocomial influenza by improving the vaccine acceptance rate of clinicians

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OBJECTIVES: To assess the effects of interventions to prevent transmission of influenza and to increase employee compliance with influenza vaccination.

DESIGN: The change in the proportion of hospitalized patients with laboratory-confirmed nosocomial influenza was observed over time and assessed using chi-square for trend analysis. The association between nosocomial influenza in patients and healthcare worker (HCW) compliance with vaccine was assessed by logistic regression. **SETTING:** A 600-bed, tertiary-care academic hospital.

METHODS: After an outbreak of influenza A at this hospital in 1988, a mobile cart program was instituted with increased efforts to motivate employees to be vaccinated and furloughed when ill as well as new measures to prevent nosocomial spread.

RESULTS: HCW vaccination rates increased from 4% in 1987-1988 to 67% in 1999-2000 ($P < .0001$). Proportions of nosocomially acquired influenza cases among employees or patients both declined significantly ($P < .0001$). Logistic regression analysis revealed a significant inverse association between HCW compliance with vaccination and the rate of nosocomial influenza among patients ($P < .001$). **CONCLUSION:** A mobile cart vaccination program and an increased emphasis on HCWs to receive the vaccine were associated with a significant increase in vaccine acceptance and a significant decrease in the rate of nosocomial influenza among patients.

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