REGISTERED NURSES AND INFLUENZA VACCINATION: CHANGING MINDSETS AND IMPROVING COMPLIANCE TO FOSTER GLOBAL HEALTH

SUSAN M. MULLANEY, EdD, RN, CNE
COLEEN E. TORONTO, MSN, RN
At the conclusion of this presentation, learners should be able to

- Identify at least two of the key barriers to accepting influenza vaccination as perceived by Nurses worldwide, and...
Learning Outcomes

- Recommend personal behavior changes to both colleagues and clients to ensure the achievement of more effective flu vaccine campaigns.
Quick Poll – What Do You Think?

How many feel that the majority of nurses get vaccinated against influenza annually?
Quick Poll
How many in the audience have received, or intend to receive, a flu vaccination this flu season?
Background

- The flu causes about 226,000 hospitalizations and 36,000 deaths in the U.S. alone each year (CDC, 2010)
The CDC and U.S. Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommend that all healthcare workers (HCW) receive influenza vaccination annually and consider it the most effective method for preventing influenza and its complications (CDC, 2010).
However, **60%** of RNs do not comply with these recommended guidelines (CDC, 2006)

Vaccination rates among nurses are lower than other types of HCW (Ofstead, Tucker, Beebe, & Poland, 2008)
Overview of the Research: EBP

- An integrative review encompassing international research was conducted to explore factors that influence nurses’ decisions to receive or decline influenza vaccination.

- The **HEALTH BELIEF MODEL** provided the framework for analyzing and reporting the results.

[Diagram of Health Belief Model]

(snrs.org)
Methodology

- Research related to nurses’ attitudes and beliefs about flu vaccine/vaccination
- Included qualitative & quantitative designs
- National & international literature published between 2003-2009 in peer-reviewed journals
- Search terms: influenza, vaccine, flu, health care workers, nurses, vaccination, beliefs, and Health Belief Model
Findings - general

• Low rates of HCW vaccination increase the risk for influenza outbreaks (CDC, 2008)

• Nurses who declined or vacillated between accepting or refusing the vaccine often cited lack of personal risk

• HCW need to be aware of the concept of *herd immunity* (Smith, 2010)
Findings – specific

Perceived Barriers to Flu Vaccination:

- Vaccine efficacy
- Vaccine safety
- Lack of knowledge
- Avoidance of injections
- Time contraints
Findings – specific

**Perceived Benefits/Positive Factors:**

- Protect thyself – *most compelling reason cited*
- Protect patients
- Correlation with educational level & age
Conclusions

- The goal of HCW vaccination: preventing transmission to patients & maintaining an adequate HC workforce (SHEA, 2010)
- While nurses are conscientious about patient safety issues like handwashing, they have not made the same connection with the flu vaccine (Schraag, 2005)
- Fear of side effects and skepticism of effectiveness are strongly associated with nonvaccination among nurses
Implications

- Occupational, staff development, & public health nurses are in a prime position to
  - understand the motivating factors and barriers behind acceptance of flu vaccination
  - encourage behavior change in nurses to improve compliance rates beyond 40% using evidence-based educational strategies

- There is a clear need to emphasize that vaccination is a patient safety issue, not just a personal preference
Recommendations

Use evidence-based educational strategies focusing on

- The severity and negative effects of influenza, in particular for high-risk clients
- Promotion of the vaccine’s safety
- The vaccine’s effectiveness in preventing illness both personally and professionally
- Herd protection principles
Florence Nightingale’s Beliefs

- Health is the ability to use well every power one has.
- Preventable disease should be a crime.
- It is cheaper to promote health than it is to care for illness.
- Goals of nursing should include health maintenance, health teaching, and disease prevention.
Time for a Clip!

- 2-minute youtube video

softicons.com and wblibrary.org
QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?
References

THANK YOU!!

Enjoy the rest of the convention!

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