

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

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Learning Outcomes



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)



Motherearthnews.com

Background, cont.

- 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)

Background, cont.

- However, **60%** of RNs do not comply with these recommended guidelines

(CDC, 2006)

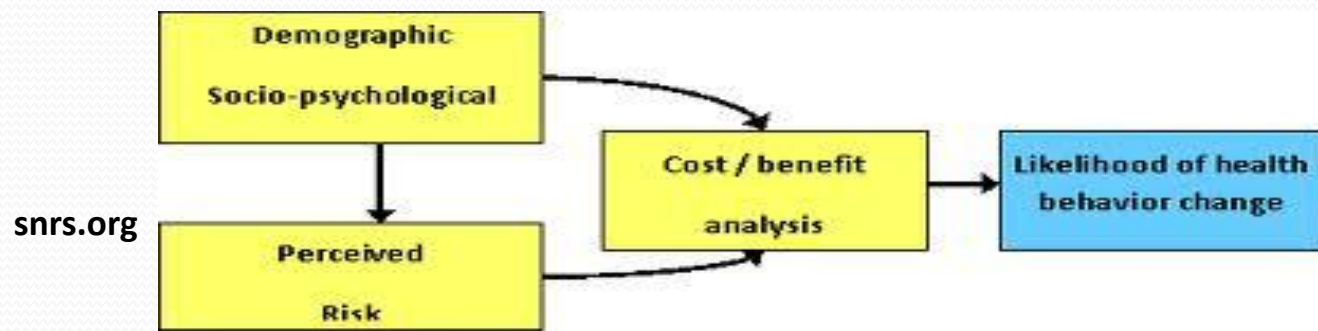
- Vaccination rates among nurses are lower than other types of HCW

(Ofstead, Tucker, Beebe, & Poland, 2008)

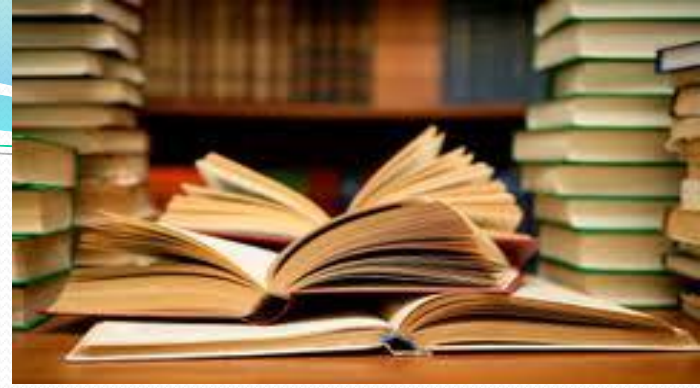


Overview of the Research: EBP

- 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



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**

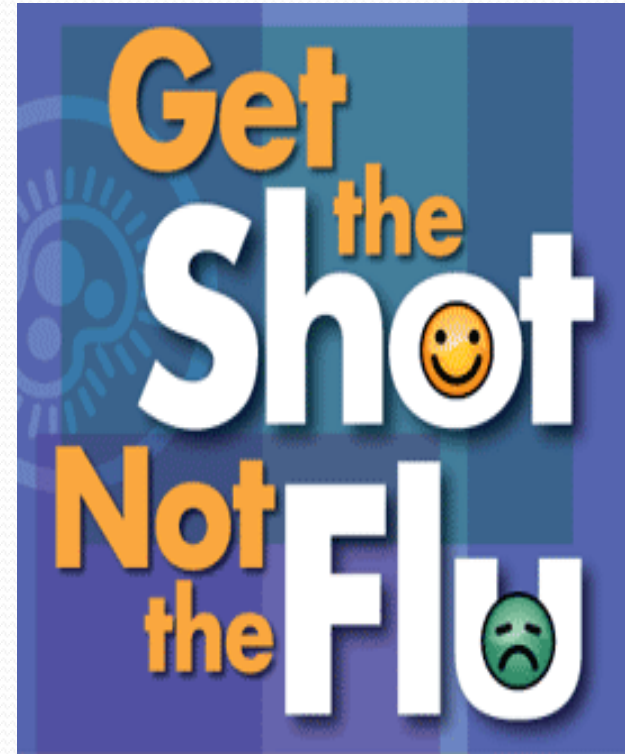
Findings - general

- 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 constraints



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
- <http://youtu.be/OozdsBMFE6E>



QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?



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THANK YOU!!

Enjoy the rest of the convention!

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