

The Inpatient Influenza Immunization Initiative

The Problem

Annual influenza vaccination is the most effective method for preventing influenza virus infection and its potentially severe complications, which account for 200,000 hospitalizations and 36,000 deaths in the U.S. each year. Patients age 50 and over who are hospitalized during influenza season should be offered influenza vaccine before they are discharged.

Aim/Goal

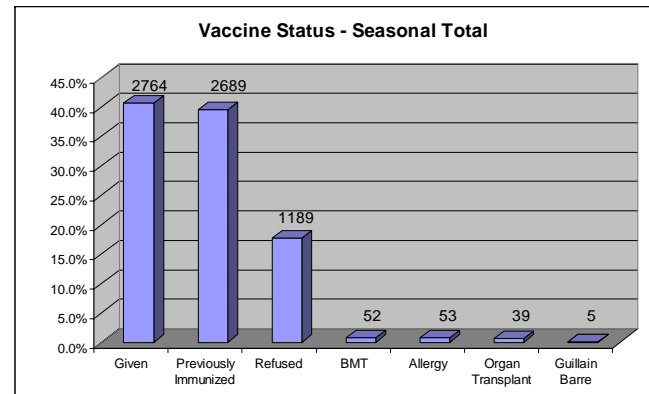
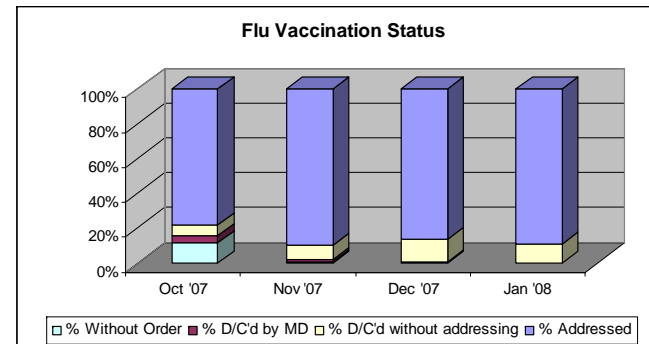
We convened a multidisciplinary team to establish a computer based immunization protocol to identify and offer influenza immunization to all inpatients age 50 and over during influenza season.

The Team

- Alexander Carbo, MD
- Kim Sulmonte, MHA, RN
- Katherine Cunningham, MHA, PharmD
- Lois Hurst, BA

The Interventions

- A standard order to initiate the influenza protocol was developed
- cPOE was programmed to identify all patients age 50 and over, upon hospital admission
- Initiation of admission, transfer, or post-operative orders begins the protocol, which generates a medication administration label and a visual nursing alert on cPOE dashboard for pending immunizations
- Patients with prior documented contraindications or immunization were automatically excluded
- The BIDMC nursing staff was in-serviced to screen patients for possible contraindications, and to offer immunization when appropriate
- All documentation is done by nursing within the cPOE system; this automatically updates the patient's online medical record



Lessons Learned

This initiative has resulted in increased screening and immunization rates for influenza vaccine for all inpatients age 50 and over during influenza season, with current rates approaching 90%. Electronic documentation involving coordination of cPOE and OMR has resulted in improved workflow, while decreasing the potential for providing multiple immunizations to a single patient during a single flu season.

Next Steps:

This protocol can be tailored to other inpatient immunization initiatives, including pneumococcal screening and immunization.

For More Information Contact