



**Service Priorities and Programmes**  
**Electronic Presentations**

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**Seasonal influenza vaccination of nurses in a Hong Kong teaching hospital: A cross-sectional survey on vaccine up-take, knowledge and attitude**

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**Introduction**

Annual influenza vaccination for healthcare workers is an important hospital infection control strategy. However, the vaccination rate among healthcare workers, especially nurses was unsatisfactory. Safety and effectiveness of the influenza vaccine has been reported as the main barriers of vaccination.

**Objectives**

(1) to investigate nurses' knowledge about seasonal influenza vaccination; (2) to investigate nurses' attitude towards seasonal influenza vaccination; (3) to study the association between vaccination rate and other variables.

**Methodology**

Self-developed questionnaires with 28 close-ended questions were distributed to nurses in wards of a teaching hospital in Hong Kong from February to March 2011. Information concerning respondents' demographics, working status, knowledge and attitude of influenza vaccination and their source of vaccination knowledge were collected. Descriptive statistic was performed for categorical data while univariate analysis was done to test the association and statistical significance between vaccination uptake rates and variables.

**Result**

466 questionnaires were distributed and ended with 73.4% response rate. The self-reported 2010-2011 influenza vaccination rate was 13.5% among nurses in the teaching hospital. Majority of respondents demonstrated fundamental understanding of influenza vaccination. Nurses who perceived higher effectiveness of influenza vaccine showed better vaccine uptake. About half of the respondents considered influenza vaccine as safe. Nurses who perceived vaccine with swine origin H1N1 influenza virus component as safe would have high chance of accepting vaccination. Having past influenza vaccination, considering annual influenza vaccination as

professional obligation, demonstrating better understanding of influenza vaccination rationale; understanding the potential side-effects of vaccination were significantly associated with the influenza immunization rate among nurses. In accordance with previous studies, misconception, professional obligation, perceived safety and effectiveness of influenza vaccination continued to affect the immunization practice of nurses. Future influenza vaccination strategy should focus on clarifying the misconception on influenza vaccine, promoting annual influenza vaccination as professional responsibility of nurses together with enhancing vaccination knowledge on its rationale and effectiveness among healthcare professional. Promoting sense of professionalism and providing influenza vaccine knowledge early in professional training is also suggested.