



Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

Convention ID: 480

Submitting author: Dr S K YUEN DR

Post title: Associate Consultant, Caritas Medical Centre

Improving seasonal influenza vaccination in renal transplant and peritoneal dialysis patients

Yuen SK(1), Leung C(1), Cheng LN(2)

(1) Department of Medicine & Geriatrics, Caritas Medical Centre

(2) Department of SOPC, Caritas Medical Centre

Keywords:

vaccination

influenza

peritoneal dialysis

kidney transplant

Introduction

Influenza vaccination is the most cost-effective way to reduce the burden of the disease. The Government Vaccination Programme (GVP) includes free seasonal influenza vaccination to high-risk population every year. Yet, the vaccination rate is notoriously low even among high-risk individuals. Our retrospective audit reviewed the 2015/16 seasonal influenza vaccination rate was only 16.0 and 11.2% among peritoneal dialysis (PD) and renal transplant patients, respectively. We speculated the ease of access being the key factor.

Objectives

To boost up influenza vaccination rate among PD and renal transplant patients.

Methodology

The specialist outpatient service for PD and renal transplant patients was relocated from Renal Day Ward to Specialist Outpatient Clinic (SOPC) in mid-2016. From 3 November 2016 onwards, all patients were advised to consider vaccination at the specialist out-patient clinic registration counter. It was agreed that PD and renal transplant patients constituted a specific population group that was medically indicated for vaccination. In the renal clinic waiting area, health care assistants reminded them to consider vaccination and directed them to the designated GVP counter, which was just next to the renal consultation rooms. Nursing staff screened for medical contraindication, obtained consent and administered the influenza vaccine. Patients who had reservation in receiving the vaccine or failed initial screening at the GVP counter were reviewed by a nephrologist. Suitable patients were directed back to the GVP counter to receive the vaccine.

Result

A total of 297 patients (male:female=180:117; mean age±standard deviation =61.2±10.6) were candidates for vaccination. By the end of December 2016, a total of

153 had received the vaccine, giving a vaccination rate of 51.5%. Apparently, the vaccines were well tolerated. We managed to boost up influenza vaccination rate from 14.2% to 51.5% among PD or renal transplant patients with staff engagement, team work and work flow modification. Final review and patient evaluation will give insights on how we could further improve the vaccine coverage.