



Service Priorities and Programmes
Electronic Presentations

Convention ID: 886

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The First pilot review on the reasons for Higher than averaged HA Acceptance Rate of Influenza Vaccination among GOPC Staff in HKW Cluster

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Keywords:

Influenza vaccination
staff acceptance rate
health belief
influenza like illness
family health benefits
staff obligation

Introduction

Influenza vaccination has been implemented in HK for more than 20 years while staff vaccination rate remained low. Health Care Workers (HCW) are one of priority groups that are generally at increased risk of transmitting influenza to those at high risk. Therefore seasonal influenza vaccination is recommended for them to reduce morbidity and absenteeism among them; and to reduce risk of transmitting influenza to patients who are at high risk of complications and mortality from influenza. Preliminary data showed willingness of receiving influenza vaccine in GOPC staff of HK West Cluster was around 43.8% which was much higher than averaged vaccination rate of 26.5% among all staff in HA. GOPC doctors had especially high rate of vaccination of around 76.9%.

Objectives

To identify reasons of high acceptance rate in HCWs who work in GOPC setting. Results can be used to develop more strategic approach in promoting influenza vaccination among HCW.

Methodology

A structured self-administered questionnaire was used to collect information about the health belief and behaviour of HCW working in GOPCs of HK West Cluster in receiving influenza vaccination. Data were analyzed using t-test, chi square test, anova and multiple logistic regression.

Result

139 questionnaires were received with a response rate of 70%; including doctors (25%); nurses (22%); allied health (5%); clinic supporting (29%) and clerical staff (19%).

Results showed that health belief in influenza vaccination differed significantly ($p < 0.001$) among staff who consistently received or not received the vaccine; and who changed their mind in receiving vaccine in this and last years. Highest health belief mean score was found in those who received vaccination this year but not last year (7.00-7.94) and the lowest in those who did not receive vaccination in 2 consecutive years (4.31-5.68).

Strong belief in vaccination being beneficial to health of family members, was strongly associated with receiving vaccination this year ($p < 0.05$), recommending vaccination to family members ($p < 0.05$), and family members actually having vaccination ($p < 0.01$). Believing that it is an obligation of HWCs to receive vaccination was also strongly associated with vaccination this year ($p < 0.01$).

Having vaccination last year was strongly associated with vaccination this year regardless of the presence of influenza like illnesses (ILI) or not the year before ($p < 0.0001$). Those who had ILI symptoms in the year before were more likely to receive the vaccine this year ($p < 0.05$).

In conclusion, GOPC staff in HKW cluster had higher than averaged HA acceptance rate of influenza vaccination. Habitual vaccination related to health belief is likely. More efforts to promoting influenza vaccination in HCW can be focused on benefit of family members and their obligation to receiving vaccine. Promoting vaccination in those who had ILI the year before may also encourage them to receive vaccination.