

Abstract

Background: *Streptococcus (S.) pneumoniae* is a respiratory pathogen responsible for nearly one-third of pneumonia cases. Two vaccines protect against more than 90 serotypes of pneumococcal pneumonia. In a large, metropolitan Veterans Affairs Health Center, we attempted to increase primary care staffs' readiness to improve pneumococcal vaccination rates.

Methods: This was a quality improvement project with pre and posttest design to determine the effect of an evidence-based educational initiative on pneumococcal vaccination rates in primary care. Pillars™ Practice Improvement Readiness Questionnaire was used pre and post intervention to assess staffs' readiness for practice improvement.

Results: 35 providers and nurses were invited to participate. Findings from this study demonstrated an increase in staff readiness to improve vaccination practice as well as an overall increase in primary care pneumococcal vaccination well above the organizational goal.

Conclusions: The 4 Pillars™ Practice Improvement Readiness Questionnaire is an effective tool for assessing staffs' readiness to improve vaccination practices. After assessing readiness, educational in-services were effective to improve staffs' readiness to improve vaccination efforts. We also found an increase in pneumococcal vaccination rates across the VAHS after staff education.