

Implementing Clinical Practice Guidelines to Address Declining Pneumococcal Vaccination Rates in Veterans: A Quality Improvement Initiative in Primary Care

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Background

- Pneumonia is the 3rd leading medical diagnosis from the Veterans Affairs Health System (VAHS).
- A VAHS in a large, metropolitan area has a 71% compliance rating for pneumococcal vaccination, compared to the national average of 75%¹
- Literature suggests patients fail to receive indicated vaccines due to lack of guideline awareness, failure to offer the vaccination² and lack of a streamlined workflow³
- Evidence demonstrates a need for primary care staff to serve as active proponents for vaccination^{2,4,5}

Project Aims

Aim 1: By February 2021, assess primary care staffs' readiness for practice improvement using the 4 Pillars™ Practice Improvement Readiness Questionnaire, pre- and post-educational intervention

Aim 2: Increase pneumococcal vaccination rate to the organizational goal, 75%, after implementation of a 1-week tailored in-service series reinforcing clinical practice guidelines

Methods

Design: Longitudinal Quality Improvement Project

Setting: 3 primary care clinics in a large, metropolitan VAHS in the mid-Atlantic region

Measurement: 4 Pillars™ Practice Improvement Readiness Questionnaire

Sample: 10 total participants were included in this project. Per the student's agreement with the VAHS, the clinic name was the only identifying information allowed to be collected due to the vulnerable nature of the population and therefore not analyzed.



Intervention

- An evidence-based PowerPoint presentation was developed and adapted from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)
- The presentation had the following objectives:
 - Provide awareness about the standards for adult immunization practice
 - Provide resources for implementing practice standards for adult immunization
 - Create a culture for routine adult vaccinations in the VAHS outpatient setting
 - Empower staffs' readiness to increase pneumococcal vaccination rates for adults

Results

Aim 1: The sum of each participants survey was calculated to establish a summary score.

Likert scale choices: 1= interested in trying 2=using routinely 3=using sometimes 4=not using

	Mean	Median	Standard Deviation
4 Pillars™ Likert survey pre- intervention summary score (N=7)	124.14	123.00	9.51
4 Pillars™ Likert survey post- intervention summary score (N=3)	122.00	133.00	26.28

Aim 2: 92.67% of eligible Veterans received indicated pneumococcal vaccination in Quarter 1, 2021

Conclusions

- Primary care staff serve a fundamental role in vaccination efforts.
- The 4 Pillars™ Practice Improvement Readiness Questionnaire is an effective tool for assessing staffs' readiness to improve vaccination practices.
- After assessing baseline readiness, educational in-services were effective to improve staffs' readiness to improve vaccination efforts.
- Immunization champions should participate in staff education on updated clinical practice guidelines.
- Post intervention, we found an increase in pneumococcal vaccination rates, well above the organizational goal.

Dissemination

- Results of this project were shared with the participating VAHS Department of Quality, Safety and Value as well as the Department of Education
- Integrative review published by *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*, 2020



References