

Pharmacists as Immunizers Increase Staff Flu Shot Uptake

Background:

In 2013 Alberta Health Services (AHS) permitted hospital pharmacists to perform injections as per the Alberta College of Pharmacists' (ACP) scope of practice. Staff immunization rates in AHS were low and Workplace Health & Safety was challenged to keep up with the need to promote and provide annual flu immunizations to staff. The ACP instituted new rules in 2013 for a pharmacist with injection certification to maintain competency through ongoing performance of injections. These developments created opportunity for pharmacists to aid in the provision of pharmacy staff flu immunizations and protect patients through improved staff immunity. Edmonton hospital pharmacists with injection certification were invited to participate and sites engaged in some friendly competition to encourage staff to roll up their sleeves.

Implementation:

Edmonton zone Workplace Health & Safety (WHS) created a Site Champions program to encourage more frontline staff to participate in the flu immunization campaign. Pharmacists joined this program; allowing them access to the orientation and resources of other immunizers. Pharmacy managers and site CPLs helped coordinate shifts for pharmacists to perform immunizations. Flu clinics were established in the pharmacy departments. These pharmacists would also support WHS staff flu clinics by signing up for a minimum of 1 site staff flu clinic. Weekly promotion and staff immunization rates were published at site pharmacy departments.

Results:

In addition to the opportunity for more than 20 pharmacists in Edmonton zone to utilize their injection training, the key goal of increasing pharmacy staff immunization rates was achieved. Edmonton zone pharmacy immunization rates from 2012-13 season was 52.71%. This increased over 13% in 2013-14 season to 65.84% immunization. We recognize that we have still not achieved the ultimate goal of completely immunizing our staff, and to that end are furthering our efforts for the 2014-15 season. More pharmacists are stepping up, and the inter-site challenges are on! Our goal is to have more than 80% of pharmacy staff immunized for this season.



CSHP 2015

Goal #3:

Increase the extent to which hospital and related healthcare setting pharmacists actively apply evidence-based methods to the improvement of medication therapy.

Objective 3.9:

In 70% of hospitals and related healthcare settings pharmacists will be actively involved in medication- and vaccination- related infection control programs.

**MARGARET GRAY BSP
FCSHP**

Clinical Practice Manager/ID Pharmacist

Alberta Health Services Pharmacy
University of Alberta Hospital

Edmonton