

Stop the flu it starts with you!



Faculty

Regional Medical Center at Memphis

Problem

In 2006, the employee vaccination rate for influenza was only 20%, far below the national average of 43%. Documentation of employee influenza vaccination status is required by the state of Tennessee.

Goal(s)

To increase employee vaccination rates using immunization-certified pharmacists in collaboration with nurses and to determine the reasons why employees declined to be vaccinated.

Program Summary

An organizational initiative to educate all employees about the influenza vaccination and dispel common myths was started in September 2007. In October all employees were required to complete a form regarding vaccination, which would serve as a means of documenting the vaccination status of employees. The form was used to screen for contraindications and to document whether employees received the vaccination or declined to do so. Employees who declined to be vaccinated were asked to indicate why. Vaccinations were administered by 26 pharmacists who were certified to administer vaccines and by nurses from October 1 to December 31, 2007.

Results

Of 2893 employees who were employed at Regional Medical Center, 2154 (74%) completed the immunization forms and 1418 (66%) of these individuals received the influenza vaccine. Of the 736 (34%) of individuals who declined, 201 (27%) checked "not specified" on the form, 191 (26%) checked "other," and 165 (736) checked that they "had been sick from the flu shot in the past." Forty-nine percent (1418/2893) of employees received the flu vaccine.

Measure of Success

Immunization-certified pharmacists involved in an employee vaccination program improved the institution's employee vaccination rate from 20% to 49% and improved its compliance with state law.

For more information on this program, contact
Dennis E. Roberts, D.Ph.
droberts@the-med.org



Developed by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. More information is available at

www.YouCanStopTheFlu.com