



The American Nurses Association's Efforts to Increase Seasonal Influenza Vaccination of Registered Nurses

Nancy L. Hughes MS, RN; Marian Condon MS,RN; Kristen Welker-Hood ScD, RN

Introduction

Registered Nurses (RN) or other health care personnel (HCP) can acquire or transmit seasonal influenza to patients or co-workers or to their families. Unvaccinated HCP can be a key source of outbreaks of influenza in health care settings particularly with high rates of sub-clinical disease. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report seasonal influenza causes 36,000 deaths and over 200,000 hospitalizations annually. The rate of seasonal influenza vaccine administration in HCP is 36-43%. It is imperative to dramatically increase vaccination rates immediately. Seasonal influenza vaccination of HCP is a patient care safety issue as well as "an ethical responsibility". ANA supports implementation of aggressive and comprehensive influenza vaccination programs for registered nurses that aim for 100% vaccination rates, but also provides an "opt out" with the completion of an informed declination form.

This poster presentation provides an overview of some of ANA's efforts to increase RNs' vaccination rates.

"Everyone Deserves A Shot At Fighting Flu" Campaign

Launched November 17, 2005

Purpose: To encourage registered nurses and other HCP with direct patient care contact to get vaccinated against influenza to keep themselves, their patients and their families healthy during the influenza season.

Method: ANA supported a survey* of registered nurses to explore awareness of seasonal influenza, including beliefs and their personal vaccination history.

Provide education and encouragement to ANA members to increase rates of seasonal influenza vaccination.

Findings:

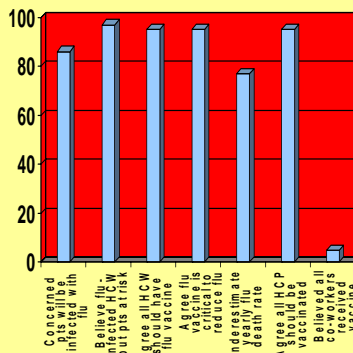
- While 95% of RNs agree that all HCP should be vaccinated against influenza each year
- And 75% of RNs are extremely or very concerned about an outbreak of influenza in their workplace
- Only 5% of RNs feel that their co-workers had been vaccinated

Barriers to receiving the vaccine:

- Vaccine shortage
- Inconvenient access to vaccine
- Thought they could get influenza from the vaccine
- Concern about side effects
- Lack of risk perception

* Survey was funded by GlaxoSmithKline

ANA Survey of Nurses' Beliefs Regarding Influenza Vaccinations (2005)



2006-2007

ANA President's Call to Action Letter to Nurses



ANA President Rebecca M. Patton

A Message from ANA President Rebecca M. Patton MSN, RN, CNOR

The 2006-2007 Influenza Season is quickly approaching. Although many of us do not relish the yearly vaccination experience it is one of the most important actions you can take to safeguard your health and that of your patients and family. [Read More...](#)

<http://www.nursingworld.org/coeh/influenza/>

American Nurses Association

Consent Action Report

Seasonal Influenza Vaccination for Registered Nurses (2006)

Whereas seasonal influenza ...

- is a serious illness with high rates of mortality and morbidity,
- is a vaccine preventable illness,
- vaccination rates of HCP are unacceptably low at less than 50% annually, And
- Efforts to increase vaccination rates through education have failed to increase influenza vaccination rates of registered nurses and other HCP,
- Registered nurses and other HCP can transmit influenza to their vulnerable patients, their co-workers and their families,
- Registered nurses can acquire influenza ... needing time off to recover, stressing healthcare staffing amidst the nursing shortage,
- Other immunizations are required to be fit for duty ...
- The CDC ... recommend(s) all healthcare personnel be vaccinated annually against influenza since 1981,
- JCAHO approved an infection control standard that requires accredited organizations to offer influenza vaccinations to staff,
- And Healthy People 2010 has a target of 90% of adults immunized for influenza.

Consent Action Report Resolutions

BE IT RESOLVED,

- ANA supports implementation of aggressive and comprehensive influenza vaccination programs for registered nurses that aim for 100% vaccination rates, but that provide an "opt out" with the completion of an informed declination form,
- Such programs should be implemented consistent with registered nurses legal rights including under labor law,
- ANA encourages health care organizations to provide influenza vaccination to registered nurses and other HCP with direct patient contact at no charge and at convenient locations,
- ANA recommends that registered nurses and other HCP receive education about the issue of seasonal influenza.



ANA reminds you to insist on safety needles when participating in influenza vaccination drives!