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Correlation Between Mandatory Influenza Vaccination for Healthcare Personnel on the Influenza Rate

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Introduction: Healthcare personnel are more likely to be exposed to the influenza virus and infect such to vulnerable hospitalized patients or co-workers. Healthy People 2020 target is to increase the healthcare workers' influenza vaccination to increase to 90% by 2020 from the national rate of 58% of the 2010-11 influenza season. Based on the recommendation from CDC and WHO, several hospitals have implemented the mandatory influenza vaccination policy for all the healthcare personnel for their patients' safety. However, there are not sufficient researches available to evaluate its effectiveness on the patient-acquired influenza.

Purpose: Evaluated the effect of mandatory influenza a policy for all the healthcare personnel on the hospital-acquired influenza rate.

Methods: In order to gather the required information, CINAHL Complete database (6 articles used), PubMed database (5 articles used) and the public health organizational website such as CDC and WHO were reviewed. The keywords such as “mandatory”, “influenza vaccination”, “healthcare workers”, “influenza”, and “flu rate” were searched in the aforementioned databases.

Results and Discussion: Hospital-acquired influenza poses a higher risk of morbidity and mortality for the patients in acute settings, and employees' conscious awareness and commitment is vital in preventing that. Increasing influenza vaccination acceptance by healthcare personnel could decrease the incidence of hospital acquired influenza. The lack of knowledge and education is negatively affecting the acceptance of influenza vaccination by healthcare workers voluntarily, duration of patient stay in an acute setting, and employee presenteeism.

Conclusion: Health care personnel influenza vaccination could potentially reduce the incidences of hospital-acquired influenza-like symptoms and influenza incidence rate.

Future and Nursing Implications: Although, CDC and WHO recommends influenza vaccination for all the healthcare personnel, there is little known about its direct effect on hospital-acquired influenza rate. Thus, nurses themselves could conduct more specific researches considering the major factor of patients’ age and comorbidities in addition to the healthcare personnel’s influenza vaccination rate effect on the hospital-acquired influenza rate.