Seasonal Influenza Vaccination: Nursing Perspective Advocacy and Counseling

Nancy L. Hughes, MS, RN
Center for Occupational & Environmental Health
American Nurses Association

The American Nurses Association is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation’s 2.9 million registered nurses through its 51 constituent member nurses associations, its 24 specialty nursing and workforce advocacy affiliate organizations.
Seasonal Influenza Vaccination
HCP

- Estimated vaccination coverage of HCP remains less than 50%.
- Educational efforts since 1981
- Asymptomatic transmission
- Vaccination of HCP reduces:
  - transmission of influenza in health-care settings
  - staff illness and absenteeism
  - influenza-related morbidity and mortality among persons at increased risk for severe influenza illness.

Background of ANA Views:

- Committed to advocating for the health of registered nurses, their patients and families
- ANA strongly urges all RNs involved in direct patient care to receive the seasonal influenza vaccination annually
  - ANA advocates for 100% vaccination rates

Copyright 2009 American Nurses Association
ANA Campaigns

- 2005-“Everyone Deserves a Shot at Fighting Flu”
  - Goal was to identify myths and barriers
- 2006/2007-“Best Practices in Seasonal Influenza Vaccination”
  - Goal was to determine who had successful programs and provide tools
  - Continued efforts

Nurses’ Role

- Leadership
- Advocacy
  - Patients
  - HCP
- Education
- Assessment of immunization status of patients
- Partnerships/Collaboration
- Administration
- Role models
American Nurses Association
Policy Statements

- Seasonal Influenza Vaccination for Registered Nurses (2006)
- Pandemic and Seasonal Influenza (2006)
  - Nurses role in relation to patient transmission
  - Non-vaccine control measures
  - Stable manufacturing, supply, and equitable distribution
  - Educational efforts
- Adult Immunization (2002)
  - Vaccine preventable disease
  - Vaccine underutilization
- Promotion and Disease Prevention (1995)
  - Impact of infectious disease on health

---

Seasonal Influenza Vaccination for Registered Nurses (2006)

- Position on Seasonal Influenza Vaccination for RNs
- Supports aggressive and comprehensive influenza vaccination programs for RNs and HCP that aim for 100% vaccination rates
  - provides an “opt out” with the completion of an informed declination form
  - education
  - free and accessible
- Consistent with legal rights including rights under labor law
- Recognizes Healthy People 2010 target of 90% adult vaccination rates

---
Thank you!
nancy.hughes@ana.org