Three-Year Trends in Healthcare Personnel Influenza Vaccination Following National Reporting Requirements

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BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVES

- Low rates of healthcare personnel (HCP) vaccination have been implicated in nosocomial influenza outbreaks, which can cause increased patient morbidity and mortality and worker absenteeism
- The U.S. Immunization Services Division recommends annual assessment of and feedback on vaccination rates to increase uptake
- CDC’s National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) is a secure, web-based surveillance system that healthcare facilities can use to collect and analyze data on healthcare-associated infections and prevention

METHODS

- Included data from hospitals reporting HCP influenza vaccination rates to NHSN in the 2013-14, 2014-15, and 2015-16 influenza seasons
- 3,771 hospitals (representing 7.8 million HCP) reported for all three seasons

RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Proportion of HCP reported vaccinated*</th>
<th>Proportion of HCP with unknown vaccination status*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>80.8%</td>
<td>84.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>84.9%</td>
<td>80.8%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Average annual decrease in reported vaccination rate was 70.6% each influenza season

LIMITATIONS

- Data reported by hospitals are not independently verified
- Changes in reported vaccination coverage may be due to unmeasured factors aside from the CMS reporting requirement, such as hospital policies or programs related to HCP influenza vaccination

CONCLUSIONS

- Increases in reported vaccination coverage— and decreases in proportion of HCP with unknown vaccination status—were statistically significant overall and in each HCP group during the observation period
- Annual increases in reported vaccination and decreases in unknown status were highest among non-employee groups (LIPs and STVs)
- Larger changes over time for non-employees may indicate a stronger effect of the reporting requirement on these HCP
- Consistent with a 2016 study that found most hospitals included only employees in their influenza vaccination measurements
- Increases in reported vaccination coverage were higher for LIPs and STVs than for hospital employees

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