Insights into PAs’ Experience with Influenza Vaccines

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Disclosures

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Methods

- Dates: September 12 to September 26, 2022
- Sample: Random selection of 1,199 PAs within select specialties
- Responses: 348 PAs
- Response rate: 29.0%
- Margin of error: +/- 5.5% at a 95% CI
Purpose

The purpose of the research was to explore several key areas:

**Benefit.** Do PAs know the benefit of receiving the influenza vaccine?

**Targeted.** Do PAs know about influenza vaccine recommendations for different patient age groups? Are they making recommendations based on this?

**Equity.** What are PAs' experiences with access issues with influenza vaccinations? What are the barriers to patients being vaccinated?
Do PAs know the benefit of receiving the influenza vaccine?
95% of PAs are extremely or very likely to get an influenza vaccination
PAs' Perceived Benefits of Influenza Vaccination

PAs identified two themes on the benefits of receiving an influenza vaccination.

Prevents Illness and death from Influenza

- Reduce mortality & morbidity from influenza
- Reduce influenza severity

Helps Others

- Decrease the spread of influenza
- Develop herd immunity
Do PAs know about influenza vaccine recommendations for different patient age groups? Are they making recommendations based on this?
PA Confidence With Influenza Vaccinations

Somewhat, Very, or Extremely Confident

71%
Educate and/or counsel patients on the differences between influenza vaccines and influenza vaccines for persons aged 65 years or older

84%
Educate and/or counsel patients on influenza vaccines
Familiarity with the ACIP 2022-2023 Influenza Vaccination Recommendations

Persons 6 Months or Older

- Moderately to extremely familiar with the new recommendations: 43%
- Slightly to somewhat familiar with the new recommendations: 42%

Adults 65 Years or older

- Moderately to extremely familiar with the new recommendations: 56%
- Slightly to somewhat familiar with the new recommendations: 36%
Equity

What are PAs' experiences with access issues with influenza vaccinations? What are the barriers to patients being vaccinated?
Recommendations for Particular Vaccines Based on Access to Different Formulations
(2021 to 2022 influenza season)

54%  
Recommended specific influenza vaccination

48%  
Access to >1 influenza vaccination formulation

76%  
Recommended specific influenza vaccination

47%  
Access to 1 influenza vaccination formulation

36%  
Recommended specific influenza vaccination

5%  
“Other” access
**Top Barriers PAs's Experience to Recommending Influenza Vaccinations**

- **47%** My patients are resistant to it.
- **13%** My patients are concerned with the efficacy of it.
- **11%** It is outside my scope of practice.
- **8%** My patients are concerned about the safety of an influenza vaccine.
Top Reasons PAs Say Their Patients Refuse an Influenza Vaccination

- 58% They do not think influenza vaccines work very well
- 49% They never get influenza
- 48% They are concerned about getting influenza from influenza vaccines
- 39% They are concerned about potential side effects from influenza vaccines
Other Reasons PAs Say Their Patients Refuse Influenza Vaccinations

20% They do not trust the system.

16% There are harmful substances in influenza vaccines

11% Vaccines are a political game
Limitations

Responses may be impacted by bias
- Retrospective recall: Recommending specific vaccines
- Retrospective recall: Reasons patients provided for influenza vaccine refusal
- Perception: Barriers to patients receiving influenza vaccinations

Survey timing
- ACIP released their current recommendations on August 26, 2022, or 16 days before the start of AAPA’s survey
Questions

Contact us at Research@aapa.org
Learn more at: www.aapa.org/research
Read more at: