

Perceptions: Long Term Care Facilities



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Long Term Care (LTC) Facilities



- **Skilled Nursing Facilities**
- **Nursing Facilities**
- **Assisted Living Facilities**
- Intermediate Care Facilities for People with Developmental Disabilities
- Group Homes/Congregate Care

2009 H1N1 Influenza A and LTC Facilities

- Good news and bad news
 - 65 + were least likely to get sick with H1N1
 - Elderly residents not targeted for vaccine
- More good news and bad news
 - Staff targeted for vaccine, according to ACIP
 - ACIP recommendation ignored by many states
- Very bad news
 - H1N1, like any other influenza, is very serious for the elderly and infirm and can lead to dire consequences to LTC residents

2009 H1N1 Influenza A and LTC Facilities

- Enormously confusing
 - **Not targeting residents for vaccine conflicted totally with seasonal influenza vaccine prioritization and LTC facility experiences**
 - ✦ LTC facilities did not understand that they were not a priority
 - Some states did not understand that the target group, “Health care and emergency medical services personnel” includes LTC facility staff
 - ✦ ACIP recommendations unclear regarding assisted living facilities
 - LTC facilities did not understand that once the vaccine is shipped to a state, the is not required to follow ACIP recommendations

H1N1 Outbreaks for LTC Facilities

- **Very good news**
 - Not many outbreaks and when there was an outbreak:
 - ✦ LTC facilities have solid experience with influenza and infection control
 - ✦ Antiviral drugs available and LTC facilities were a high priority
- **Concerns**
 - Delays in testing since they were not a targeted population
 - Closing to visitors could violate resident rights
 - N95 respirators
 - ✦ normally not used in LTC
 - ✦ Shortage of respirators and fit-testing equipment

H1N1 Outbreak Issues

- Delay in getting lab confirmation
- Prophylaxis antiviral medication for all residents and all staff is very expensive
- Media circus sometimes
- Need strong foundation of staff trust
- Difficult to explain to cognitively impaired residents
- Closing for visitors is problematic to families.

H1N1: Final Thoughts

- **CDC was fabulous and amazing**
 - The information and guidance flowed quickly and comprehensively
 - Questions were quickly answered



2009 Seasonal Influenza Season: Very Rough

- **Since October 2005, certified nursing facilities are required to offer every resident vaccine, unless contra-indicated**
 - Facilities must be able to demonstrate to state surveyors that they have an immunization protocol and that they have offered influenza and pneumococcal vaccination to every resident (as appropriate) and provided education about the benefits and risks of vaccination to residents or their legal representatives.
- **LTC facilities are encouraged to offer vaccination to all staff**
 - This year, employees seemed to want the seasonal vaccine
 - Supply did not meet demand

2009 Seasonal Influenza Season: Frustrating

- According to ACIP, LTC residents are a high priority for seasonal vaccine
- Vaccine was in short supply
 - Many facilities did not receive their pre-ordered vaccine doses or they received much less than ordered
 - Increased demand from employees was unmet
- Initially, CDC did not agree there was a vaccine shortage
- But supply was not meeting demand
- When CDC does not acknowledge a shortage:
 - Vaccine is not steered to high priority groups
 - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) may cite the nursing home as deficient

Help in Finding Vaccine: Better Late Than Never

- With L.J. Tan's help, CDC finally agreed that there was a shortage of seasonal vaccine
- CDC stepped to the plate and reached out to locate vaccine and steer it to LTC facilities
- Once shortage was acknowledged, help was forthcoming from many places
- AHCA/NCAL developed a survey and invited AAHSA, AMDA, and ASCP members to participate
 - Allowed us to connect LTC facilities in need of vaccine to FFF or Safeway or Maxim Wellness

Special Thank You

- **AHCA/NCAL, our member facilities, and their residents greatly appreciate all the help we received in October and November, 2009**
- Sanofi-Pasteur
- Novartis
- FFF
- Safeway
- Maxim Wellness
- McKesson
- L.J. Tan
- National Influenza
- Vaccine Summit
- CDC

