

Title of Intervention: Computer-generated provider reminders

Intervention Strategies: Provider Education

Purpose of the Intervention: To increase influenza immunizations by using computer generated reminders

Population: General practitioners working at a family practice center

Setting: Family practice center of the Department of Family Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University; health care facility-based

Partners: None mentioned

Intervention Description:

- **Provider Education:** A computer was used to identify all patients eligible for an influenza vaccine. Reminders identifying patients as eligible for the vaccine were printed on an encounter form. The form was attached to the patient's chart. The reminders were provided to the health care provider, who responded by ordering the vaccine. Influenza vaccines are, according to office routine, given by nurses and recorded on the encounter form as a billable procedure. When the billing record showed the procedure had been performed, the computer program removed the reminder message from the encounter form.

Theory: Not mentioned

Resources Required:

- **Staff/Volunteers:** Health care providers
- **Training:** Not mentioned
- **Technology:** Computer, printer, automated reminder system
- **Space:** Not mentioned
- **Budget:** Not mentioned
- **Intervention:** Automated reminder system
- **Evaluation:** Access to patient charts

Evaluation:

- **Design:** Randomized Controlled Trial
- **Methods and Measures:**
 - Data regarding patient and physician characteristics were obtained from the reminder system.

Outcomes:

- **Short Term Impact:** Not measured
- **Long Term Impact:** A significant increase in immunization rates was observed.

Maintenance: Not mentioned

Lessons Learned: Reminders to physicians are most effective when they are provided for every appropriate patient encounter. Administrative strategies can greatly improve immunization rates for moderate and high risk patients. Discussion of immunizations and patient refusal were not consistently documented.

Citation(s):

Chambers, C. V., D. J. Balaban, et al. (1991). "The effect of microcomputer-generated reminders on influenza vaccination rates in a university-based family practice center." J Am Board Fam Pract 4(1): 19-26.