

Title of Intervention: A Family Practice Residency Immunization Intervention

Intervention Strategies: Individual Education, Supportive Relationships

Purpose of the Intervention: To develop and implement a simple means of improving the percentage of children enrolled in a family practice residency with up-to-date immunizations

Population: Primary: Parents of children ages 2 months to 7 years; Secondary: Children ages 2 months to 7 years

Setting: A family practice residency clinic; health care facility-based setting

Partners: Health department immunization registry; private clinic

Intervention Description:

- Individual Education: Children in the immunization group were sent a postcard reminder listing the types of immunizations required for that child and urging that an appointment be made. The postcards were in English because less than 1 percent of the practice were Spanish speaking only.
- Supportive Relationships: When parents called the office in response to postcards, patient charts were reviewed and recommendations were given by one of the physicians. Following a grace period, physicians for several weeks attempted to telephone the parents or guardians who had not yet responded to the postcards.

Theory: Not mentioned

Resources Required:

- Staff/Volunteers: Health care providers
- Training: Not mentioned
- Technology: Telephones, computers with Epi Info 5.1 software
- Space: Not mentioned
- Budget: Not mentioned
- Intervention: Postcards, telephones
- Evaluation: Patient charts

Evaluation:

- Design: Prospective cohort
- Methods and Measures:
 - Immunization coverage of both the intervention and control groups was compared.
 - A review of the practice billing charts and codes along with the county health department's records confirmed that immunizations had been received.

Outcomes:

- Short term Impact: Not measured
- Long Term Impact: The number of children immunized was greater among the intervention group. There was an increase in catch-up immunizations among the both groups, but was much higher among the intervention group.

Maintenance: Not mentioned

Lessons Learned: Some postcards might not have been received by the intended target persons or not understood in a Spanish speaking household. Also, further efforts are necessary to improve immunization practices. A larger response might have resulted from using the Health Belief Model as the theory behind the postcards.

Citation(s):

Alto, W.A., et al., Improving the immunization coverage of children less than 7 years old in a family practice residency. *J Am Board Fam Pract*, 1994. 7(6): p. 472-7.