Practice-Based Education Program to Increase Vaccination Rate in Patients on Immunotherapeutic Agents

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Aim
• Implement a protocolized vaccination program for patients on immunosuppressive medications to increase influenza and pneumococcal vaccination adherence by at least 15% for each vaccine.

Measures
• Retrospective chart analysis of 756 patients on biologic agents in a primary care setting.
• Patients were evaluated for compliance with CDC guidelines for immunocompromised individuals for the 3 vaccines listed below:
  1. Influenza
  2. Prevnar 13
  3. Pneumovax 23

Intervention
• Educational outreach sessions were performed for all providers of internal medicine and rheumatology practices biannually.
• Information sheets were displayed in all involved practices.

Current Results
• There was an increase in overall vaccination adherence by 11% (n=81) in an at risk patient population.

Future Steps
• A vaccination clinic is being developed in order to improve access to patients requiring vaccinations.
• We will optimize our best practice alert advisory through electronic medical record to notify providers of vaccine schedules for our at risk population.

Problem
• Immunosuppressive agents have changed the course of debilitating autoimmune conditions, but come with an increased risk of vaccine preventable infections.
• Vaccine indications and dosing recommendations are not being adhered to regularly by primary and specialty practices.

Background
• Multiple organizations recommend scheduled influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations in all patients on chronic immunosuppression.
• According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in 2014, vaccination adherence remains low amongst high-risk persons aged 19–64 years.

References