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**Publishing Title: Health Care Worker Attitudes Regarding Influenza Immunization and Vaccine Receipt**

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**Abstract Body: Background**

The CDC recommends yearly influenza immunization for healthcare workers (HCW); only 50% comply. We hypothesized that the attitudes of HCW in children's hospitals regarding influenza vaccine are associated with their professional training, knowledge about vaccine efficacy and safety, and attitudes about vaccines for their children.

**Methods**

We surveyed a random cohort of doctors, nurses and other employees at a large tertiary children's hospital, in March of 2009, regarding knowledge of influenza vaccine and their attitudes and beliefs about immunization for themselves and their children.

**Results**

574/946 surveys were returned from 63 physicians (54% response rate), 135 nurses (57%) and 376 (63%) other employees. 82% were female, 83% Caucasian, 53% aged 25-44 years, and 40% had >15 years HCW experience. Physicians are more likely to believe they are at high risk for influenza infection, that immunization prevents influenza, and that influenza vaccine is safe for both adults and children compared to nurses or others ( $p < 0.0001$ ). Predictors of influenza immunization included job title, race, and years in healthcare (OR 9.54, 4.56, 0.827 respectively). Other HCW were most likely to believe that vaccine could cause influenza ( $p < 0.0001$ ) and that presence of symptoms are required for spread ( $p = 0.011$ ). When asked about routine childhood vaccines, physicians were less likely than nurses or other employees to be concerned about efficacy ( $p = 0.035$ ,  $p = 0.004$ ) and safety ( $p = 0.001$ ,  $p < 0.0001$ ). Nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of physicians supported a policy of mandatory immunization for HCW; less than half of nurses and others did ( $p < 0.0001$ ). The children of HCW who received influenza vaccine, were more likely to receive influenza vaccine ( $p < 0.001$ ).

**Conclusions**

Influenza vaccine receipt was high in our institution. There were significant gaps in knowledge regarding risk of infection, nosocomial spread and vaccine safety among

all groups. Physicians are more comfortable than others with a mandatory vaccine policy. Universal immunization of HCW is unlikely without a mandatory policy, but such policies would face significant hurdles, even among HCW in a children's hospital.

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