

Factors that could either be positive or negative include perceived safety and efficacy of the vaccine, perceived seriousness of the disease, and perceived risk and seriousness of complications from the disease and access to the vaccine. An important negative factor is the fear that the vaccine could cause disease. Interventions implemented in order to increase the compliance with influenza vaccination include educational and media campaigns, providing easy access to vaccines, using people from within the staff as vaccination leaders, mandatory vaccination and use of vaccine declination forms.

Conclusions

Compliance with influenza vaccination among HCWs is highly variable between sub-groups and between countries. There is a need for more standardized surveys that are carried out periodically for international comparisons. Communication strategies to improve compliance among HCWs should take into account the positive and negative factors affecting compliance. Successful intervention strategies should be evaluated in different countries.

Key messages

- Communication strategies to improve compliance among HCWs should take into account the positive and negative factors affecting compliance.
- More standardized surveys should be carried out periodically for international comparisons.

Compliance with influenza vaccination among healthcare workers – tailoring risk communication according to the factors affecting compliance

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Background

Historically, compliance with vaccination against influenza among healthcare workers (HCWs) has been extremely variable. In order to improve vaccine coverage among HCWs, it is important to identify the main factors affecting compliance in order to tailor risk communication for this population.

Aims

Literature review on compliance and factors associated with compliance with influenza vaccination among HCWs, both prior to and following the 2009 pandemic.

Methods

Relevant articles were identified by an electronic search. The key words we used for the search included: Influenza, seasonal, pandemic, vaccination, immunization, vaccine, adjuvants, adverse events, compliance, coverage, acceptance, barriers, refusal, physicians, health professions.

Results

The compliance rates vary widely among HCWs, both between and within countries, and varied from less than 10% to around 40-50%. Rates differed between physicians, nurses and other HCWs. In addition, the compliance with the pandemic vaccine differed from that for the seasonal vaccine. In general, compliance rates in the United States are somewhat higher than in other countries reviewed. Positive factors affecting vaccination compliance include a desire for self-protection and a desire to avoid infecting patients and family members.