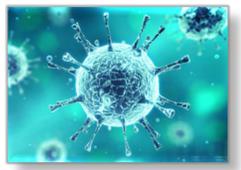




Evaluation of Pharmacist Administered Influenza Vaccination in High Risk Hospital Outpatients (EPIHVO)



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Background

Influenza outbreaks place a significant burden on the Australian healthcare system. There is strong evidence that increasing rates of influenza vaccination, especially amongst high-risk patients will decrease the number of confirmed cases of influenza, reduce hospital admissions, associated costs, and death.

Legislative changes to the State's Pharmacist Vaccination Standard were realised through meeting with the Chief Health Officer to include administration within a public sector hospital, where previously it was restricted to community pharmacies.

Aims

To assess the feasibility, acceptability and impact of pharmacists administering influenza vaccinations to patients in a hospital outpatient setting.

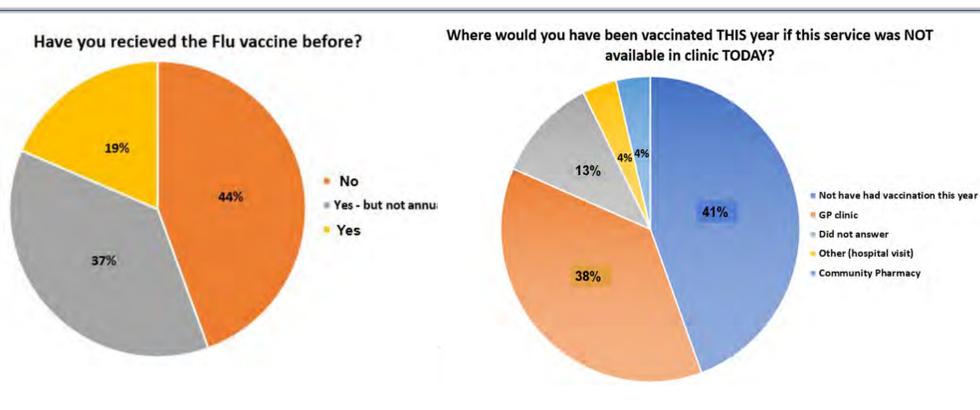
Methods

- A service evaluation study assessed the feasibility and impact of an opportunistic model of care
- Suitably trained hospital pharmacists opportunistically administered influenza vaccinations to patients booked into their clinic
- Patients accepting a vaccine completed a questionnaire about their vaccination experience

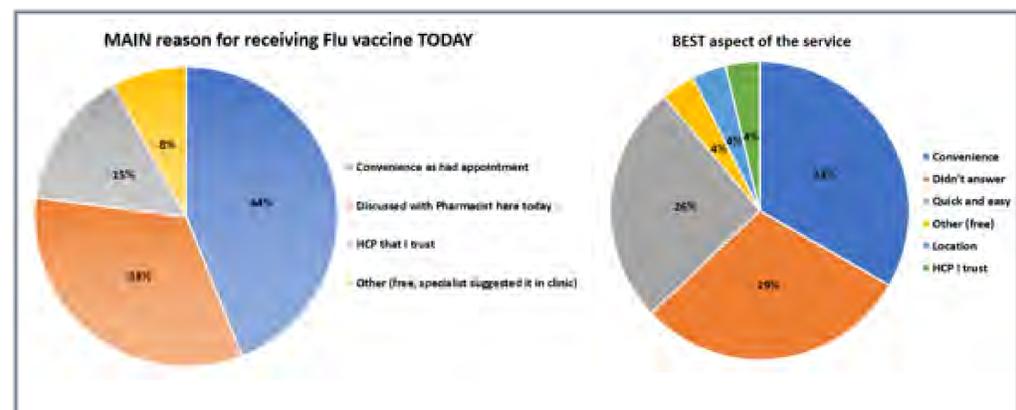
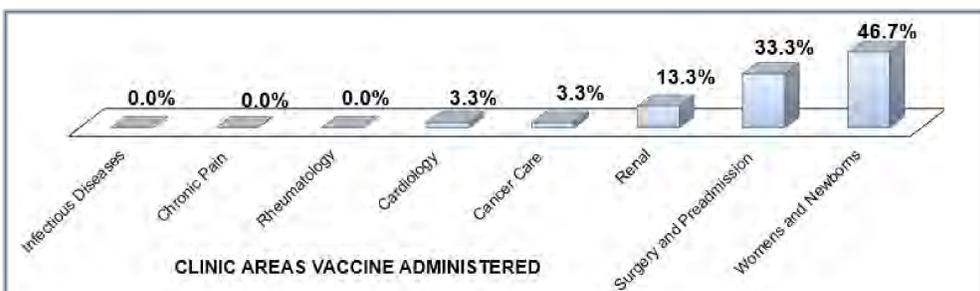
Results

- Pharmacists administered influenza vaccinations to **30 patients**.
- **44%** of patients had never received an influenza vaccination before.
- **41%** of patients would not have been vaccinated this year if this service had not been available.

- **Convenience** was most frequently cited as main reason for receiving the influenza vaccination at the clinic and the best aspect of service.



- Nearly half of all vaccines administered were given in **Maternity Outpatients (47%)**, followed by Preadmission clinics (33%) and Renal Outpatients (13%).



- Patient satisfaction of the immunisation service was very high:
 - **100%** of patients completely satisfied with overall vaccination experience
 - **100%** of patients felt facilities were adequate
 - **100%** of patients happy to receive flu vaccination at clinic in future
 - **100%** of patients would recommend service to family & friends

Discussion

The convenience of our opportunistic model of care improved access to the influenza vaccine for high-risk patients and is adaptable across a number of outpatient clinics. Despite the small numbers achieved, the impact of the service is realised through the high percentage of patients who had not and would not have been vaccinated if this service was not available. This merits further investigation of a coordinated roll-out of the service across multiple hospital settings.