Maximizing Influenza Vaccine Rates in Allergy Shot Patients

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Introduction

► Immunizations fundamental part of healthcare
► Immunization screened each clinic visit
► Subcutaneous immunotherapy (SCIT) and biologic patients visit regularly and provide frequent opportunities to assess immunization status, specifically annual influenza vaccine
Introduction

► Patients more likely to receive vaccinations when recommended by provider

► Annual influenza vaccine rates 48.4% 2019-20 influenza season in US

Methods

► Quality improvement program during COVID pandemic

► SCIT and biologic patients screened every visit

► Administration of 2020-21 influenza vaccine
Methods

► Sticker placed in injection room to remind staff
► Vaccine currency documented on patient’s injection record

Results

► 145 injection room patients (135 SCIT and 10 biologic)
► Given injections and screened for influenza vaccine
► October 2020 - January 2021
Results

► 145 patients
► 91.7% received influenza vaccination
► 133 vaccinated
► 8 declined and 4 unconfirmed

Conclusions

► Allergy clinics have captive audience in injection rooms with SCIT and biologic patients to screen for influenza vaccine

► By implementing during COVID pandemic, our simple screening program resulted in unprecedented influenza vaccination rate of 91.7% among SCIT and biologic patients

► Double national average
Conclusions

► Every allergy clinic should consider implementing similar injection room system for influenza screening

► Similar process could be implemented for COVID vaccine

Questions?