

The Gift (?) That Keeps Giving

Protecting our Patients

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Giving & Giving

- 19 infants—1 died
- 65 residents—19 hospitalized, 2 died
- 1 unit, 4 transplant patients — all affected

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Giving & Giving

- 19 infants—1 died
 - 15% of the staff immunized
- 65 residents—19 hospitalized, 2 died
 - 10% of the staff immunized

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Why Worry?

Infected health care workers can
transmit the virus to patients in their care.

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How Do They Transmit?

An individual is infectious about one day
before, and five days after, symptom onset.

30%–50% of infected
personnel are asymptomatic.

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Really?



Continue to work while
infected.

Suboptimal adherence
to infection control
practices

- hand washing
- droplet precautions

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September 9, 2004

What To Do?

Single best way to reduce
influenza transmission . . .

. . . increased use
of influenza vaccine.*

*CDC. Prevention and control of influenza: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. *MMWR*, 2003;52(RR-8):1-34.

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Implications

Replacement workers = ↑ costs.

Transitional nurses can lead to ↑ adverse events.

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Implications

Cost analysis

- 7 studies since 1997
- ALL showed cost savings, net savings, or cost effective benefits.



Improving Influenza Vaccination Rates of Healthcare Workers

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Implications



- 27% fewer episodes of respiratory illness
- 43% fewer days of sick leave
- 44% fewer visits to physician offices

Improving Influenza Vaccination Rates of Healthcare Workers

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Does Vaccination Work

70%–90% effective
in preventing influenza
in healthy individuals
under 65 years.



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Choose Just One Reason

- “I have to get this done.”
- “I am the only one that can finish this.”
- “I am not that sick.”
- “I want to save my time off for when my kids are sick.”

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Choose Just One

- "I always get the flu when I get the shot."
- "I never get the flu."
- "I never have the time to go all the way over to employee health."
- "What's a CDC recommendation?"
- "I hate needles."

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Choice

Influenza immunization viewed as a personal choice.

Health care worker vaccination is a patient safety concern.

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Key Concepts

- Make it convenient.
- Make it free.
- Educate everyone.
 - You will not get the flu.
 - You will make others sick if you have the flu.
 - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends workers be immunized



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Intervention Concepts

Make workers *want* to get vaccinated.

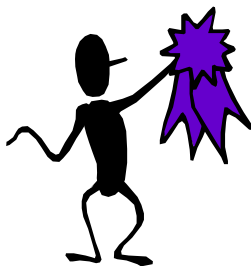
Make it *easy* to get vaccinated.

Remove barriers to vaccination.

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Success



Facilities that implement successful programs include multiple strategies . . . no single strategy is sufficient.

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Benefits

- Decreased illness
- Reduced antibiotic usage
- Reduced facility morbidity
- Reduced facility mortality

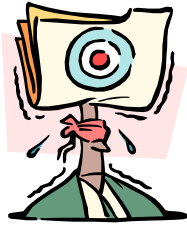
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How Do I Sell This Idea?

There are financial incentives to this program.



This is a patient safety issue.

This is the right thing to do.

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Want to Get Shot Today?

- Use educational forums
- Send e-mail messages
- Post notices
- Call people
- Offer vaccines on the unit, at lunch

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Educational Forums

- Use multiple message types
- Consider education levels
- Consider primary language

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Most Effective?

Make it convenient . . .

the single most effective strategy.

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Convenience Means

Take the vaccine to the worker . . .

- Cafeterias
- Parking garages
- Conferences
- Charting locations
- Break rooms

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Hard Core Tasks

- Find someone to drive the program.
- Get administrative support.
- Develop a commitment to immunization.

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Measuring Success

Track administered doses.
Calculate percentage of employees vaccinated.
Track by location.

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Immunization is a preventive measure that is highly cost effective.

Health care workers are RESPONSIBLE for the safety of their patients and should do their utmost to prevent transmission of influenza.

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Health care worker immunization is a start in a mindset change process. Getting the flu shot is not only for yourself, but also for protecting those around you . . . not just patients but other family members, parents, and children.

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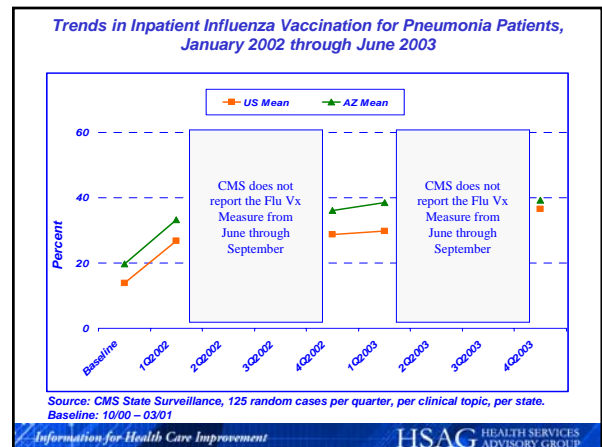
If you have the ability to protect others from becoming ill, from transmitting illness, why would you not become immunized?

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Available Vaccine

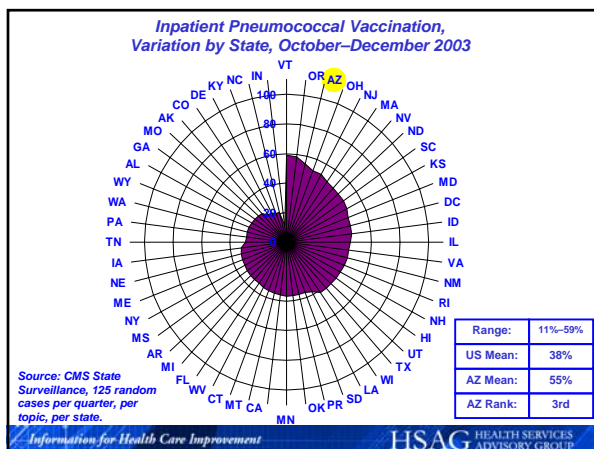
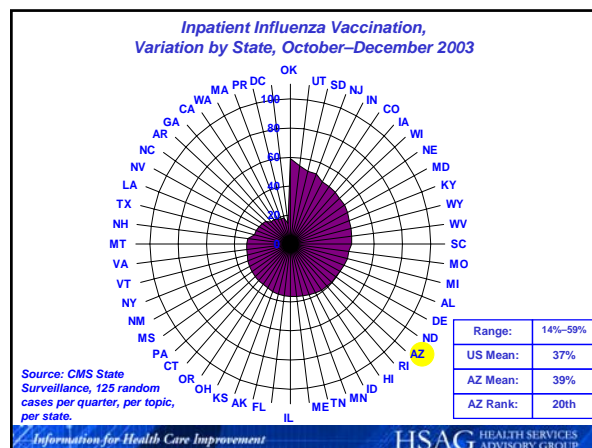
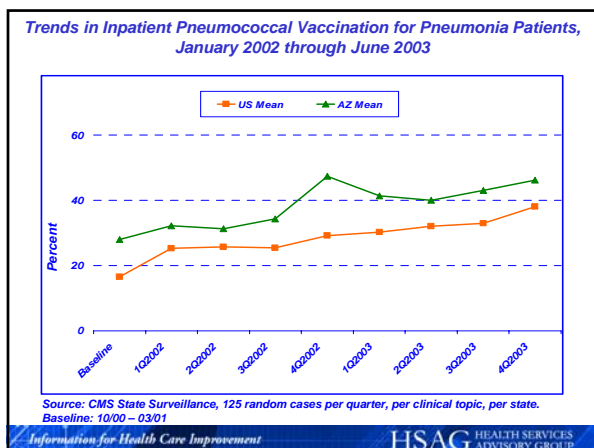
- 100 million doses available
- Chiron identified production problems related to sterility at their Liverpool site
- CDC recommends that high-risk individuals receive their flu shot in October
- CDC continues to recommend that people seek immunization as early as possible BUT not even December is too late
- Pediatric doses are not affected
- Not all the doses were used in 2003

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Barriers to Improved Results

- Physician perception
- Reimbursement issues
- Not perceived as a priority
- Other reasons????

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What can the HoW do to improve results in Arizona?

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HoW can . . .

- Do nothing.
- Promote immunization protection at the clinician level.
- Promote system changes that will assure that hospitalized patients are offered/given vaccinations prior to discharge.
- Other interventions to consider . . .

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Remember that

If this is a typical flu season . . .

- 36,000 people will die from the flu this year.
- 114,000 people will be hospitalized.
- > 150 children will die.

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