

the Right Care at the Right Time

Flu is a Serious Disease

Influenza causes an average of 36,000 deaths and 114,000 hospitalizations in the United States each year. Influenza and pneumonia, together, represent the fifth leading cause of death for older Americans.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Center for Health Statistics. *Health, United States, 2003*.

Flu Vaccination is Effective

When the vaccine and circulating viruses are antigenically similar, influenza vaccine prevents influenza illness among approximately 70 percent to 90 percent of healthy adults aged < 65 years. For noninstitutionalized persons aged ≥ 60 years, a vaccine efficacy of 58 percent is reported. The vaccine can also be effective in preventing secondary complications and reducing the risk for influenza-related hospitalizations and deaths among adults ≥ 65 years with and without high-risk medical conditions (e.g., heart disease and diabetes).

Govaert TM, Thijs CT, Masurel N, Sprenger MJ, Dinant GJ, Knottnerus JA. Efficacy of influenza vaccination in elderly individuals: A randomized double-blind placebo-controlled trial. *JAMA*, 1994;272:1661-1665.

Hospitalized Patients Should be Vaccinated

Persons of all ages with high-risk conditions and persons aged ≥ 50 years who are hospitalized during September–March should be immunized prior to discharge.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Prevention and Control of Influenza: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). *MMWR*, May 28, 2004;53(RR06):1-40.

However, vaccination of persons at high risk during or after their hospitalizations is often not done. In a study of hospitalized Medicare patients, only 32 percent were vaccinated before admission, 2 percent during admission, and 11 percent after admission. Using standing orders in hospitals increases vaccination rates among hospitalized persons.

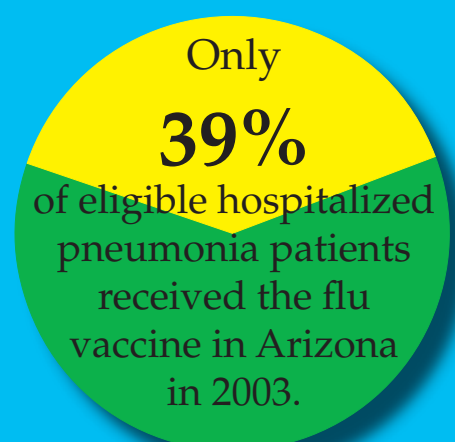
Fedson DS, Houck P, Bratzler D. Hospital-based influenza and pneumococcal vaccination: Sutton's Law applied to prevention. *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol*, 2000;21:692-699.

The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) supports voluntary emergency department programs for immunization.

ACEP. Adult Immunization in Emergency Departments. Available at: <http://www.acep.org/1,386,0.html>.

Publicly Reported for Hospitals

Influenza immunization is a CMS publicly reported quality measure for hospitalized pneumonia patients. The measure tracks the number of pneumonia patients, age 50 years and older, discharged during October–February, who were screened for influenza vaccine status and were vaccinated prior to discharge, if indicated.



Source: CMS State Surveillance



Give a Flu Shot!