Synergizing Shots and Smiles: Influenza Vaccines Via Medical Dental Integration

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Purpose

- The purpose of this project is to assess the effectiveness of offering same-day influenza vaccines to patients ages 18 months-5 years presenting for dental visits .

Flu Vaccination In Pediatric Patients

Reduces risk of illness by	Reduces risk of flu-related ICU admission by	Reduces death from Flu in healthy patients by
50%	75%	67%

Methods

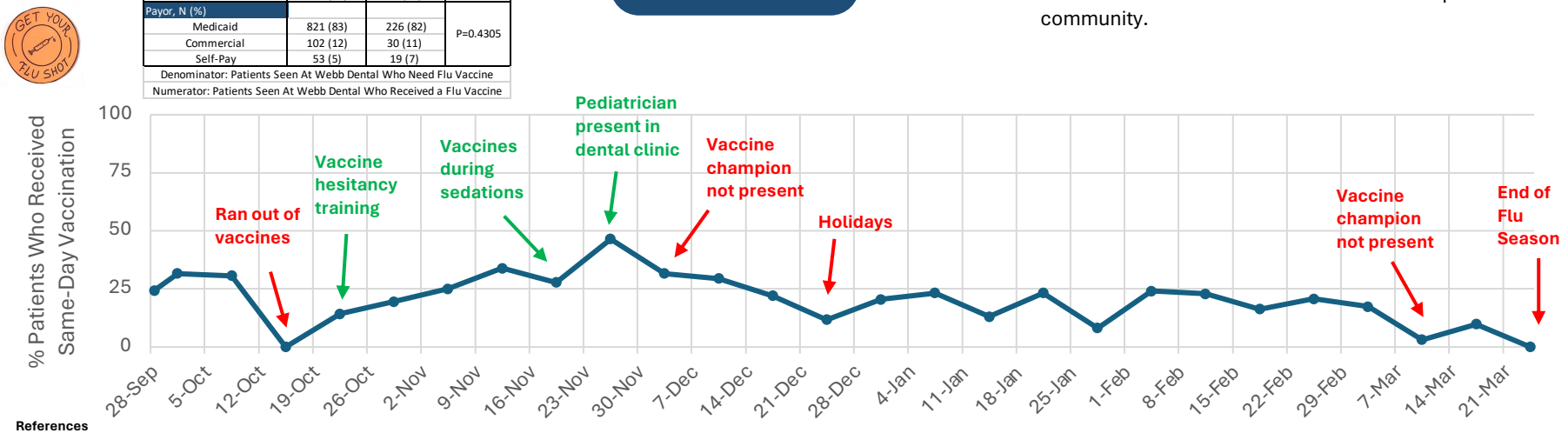
- The project was conducted at one dental clinic co-located within a medical clinic at a large, Federally Qualified Health Center during the 2023-2024 influenza season.
- Daily reports identified patients ages 18 months-5 years who presented for a dental visit and were eligible for the flu vaccine. Visual reminder cards were placed in patient charts.
- Provider training for vaccine hesitancy and presumptive language completed.
- Vaccines were administered by pediatric medical staff.
- PDSA cycles performed throughout influenza season to improve vaccination process.
- Descriptive statistics analyzed sociodemographic characteristics of eligible children. Chi-square tests compared those who were eligible for the vaccine vs. those who received the vaccine. Process and outcomes were measured with a run chart.
- This project was reviewed by the Quality Improvement Committee of Denver Health (QuIRC), which is authorized by the Colorado Multiple Institutional Review Board at the University of Colorado, Denver (COMIRB), and was determined not to be human subject research. As such, this project did not require IRB review.

Results

	MDI Eligible, Unvaccinated (N=976)	MDI Eligible, Vaccinated (N=275)	
Age Group, N (%)			
18 mos- <2 yrs	74 (0)	15 (5)	P= 0.7960
2 year olds	158 (16)	45 (16)	
3 year olds	218 (22)	60 (22)	
4 year olds	267 (27)	80 (29)	
5 year olds	259 (27)	75 (27)	
Gender (Legal Sex), N (%)			
Female	479 (49)	139 (51)	P=0.6672
Male	497 (51)	136 (49)	
Race, N (%)			
Black or African American	181 (19)	39 (14)	P=0.4434
White	519 (53)	150 (55)	
Asian	55 (6)	14 (5)	
Other	34 (3)	12 (4)	
Unreported	187 (19)	60 (22)	
Ethnicity, N (%)			
Hispanic or Latino	600 (61)	197 (72)	P=0.0018
Not Hispanic or Latino	370 (38)	74 (27)	
Unreported	6 (1)	4 (1)	
Language, N (%)			
English	535 (55)	131 (48)	P=0.0365
Spanish	323 (33)	114 (41)	
Other	118 (12)	30 (11)	
Payor, N (%)			
Medicaid	821 (83)	226 (82)	P=0.4305
Commercial	102 (12)	30 (11)	
Self-Pay	53 (5)	19 (7)	
Denominator: Patients Seen At Webb Dental Who Need Flu Vaccine			
Numerator: Patients Seen At Webb Dental Who Received a Flu Vaccine			

275 Vaccines Administered

22% Of Eligible Patients Received Same-Day Vaccine



Conclusions

- Administering influenza vaccines the same day as dental visits is feasible.
- Families across differing demographics are receptive to receiving vaccinations the same day as dental visits.
- Factors for success
  - Involvement of all clinic staff
  - Visual cues
  - Vaccine champion
  - Option for vaccination during sedation
- Limitations
  - Vaccine supply
  - Coordination with pediatric medical clinic
  - Medical staff shortages
- Dentists already have an influential role in the disease prevention process. Vaccines are an additional opportunity for dentists to contribute to the health of our patients and community.

References

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