

Implementing a Robust Immunization Program for Hospitalized Patients in a Critical Access Hospital

Rachel Forster, PharmD, RP

Purpose

- Improve vaccination status of adults in our community
- Three targeted vaccines include pneumococcal , tetanus/diphtheria/acellular pertussis and influenza
- Improve processes between nursing and pharmacy to assure vaccination prior to discharge
- Awareness of resurgence of communicable diseases and risks to patients with comorbidities such as COPD

Methods

- Pharmacists engaged in driving processes, policy development, implementation as well as process improvement to assure the success of the vaccine initiative for patients 18 and older
- Pharmacists researched Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations and order sets
- Standardized process was developed to identify eligible and ineligible patients for each vaccine
- A policy was written and implemented to delineate responsibilities for each department involved
- Policy and procedures were vetted through Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee and approved by Medical Staff
- Pharmacy and nursing collaborated to educate and implement the vaccine initiative, conduct process improvement and assess health system data transfer between information systems

Results

- After 8 months of implementing the vaccine initiative at Sidney Regional Medical Center the following results have occurred:
 - 356% increase in Tdap immunizations
 - 185% increase in Pneumococcal-23 immunizations
 - 291% increase in Influenza immunizations
 - Pneumococcal-13 vaccine added to formulary fall 2014
 - 42 doses given since added to formulary

Evaluation

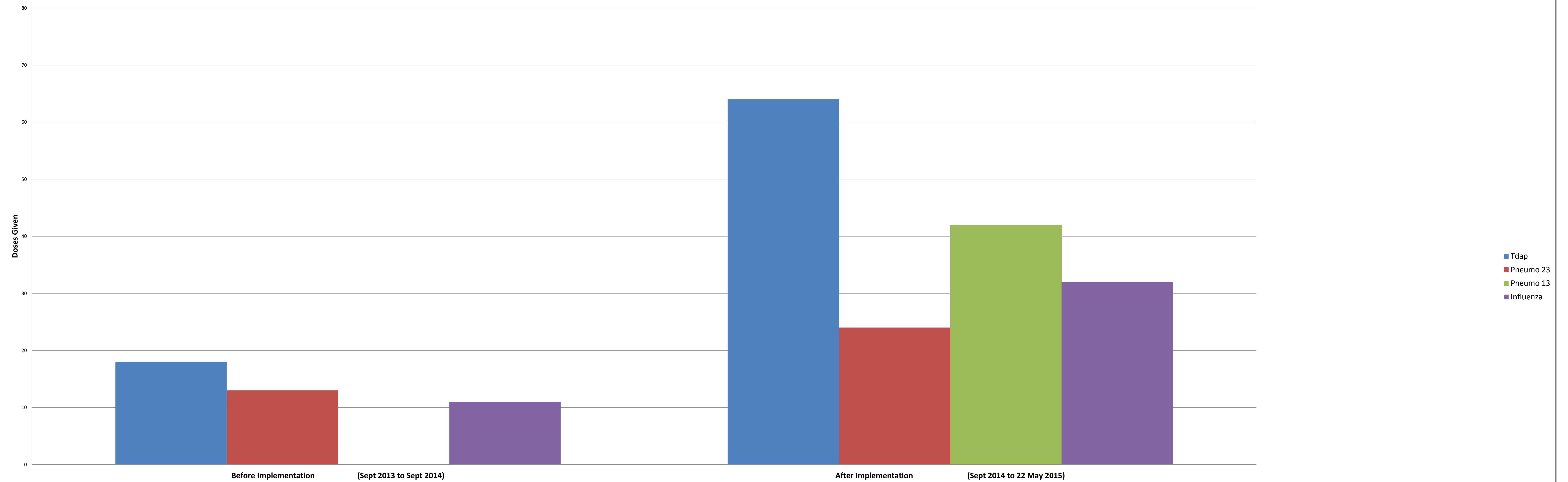
- Pharmacists monitored vaccine orders on medication administration record (MAR) versus vaccines administered
- Identified missed administration orders
- Pharmacy and nursing collaborated to improve orientation of orders on MAR
- Follow up after implementation of changes on the MAR resulted in increased vaccination rate

Conclusions

- Implementation of a robust vaccination initiative requires teamwork between providers, nurses and pharmacists.
- Thorough implementation, continuous reassessment of processes and communication are key to successful implementation of a new initiative.
- Sidney Regional Medical Center staff have implemented best practices and evidence based medicine resulting in improved vaccination status for our community.
- Successful initiatives such as the vaccine initiative at Sidney Regional Medical Center demonstrate the positive impact pharmacists can have within a health system and on the health and wellness of a community.

Thank you for your interest in our vaccine initiative.

Vaccine Administration



Disclosures

The author of this presentation has the following to disclose concerning possible financial or personal relationships with commercial entities that may have a direct or indirect interest in the subject matter of this presentation.

Rachel Forster: Nothing to Disclose