Survey of vaccination policies in French healthcare institutions

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France’s healthcare panorama

- 2784 hospitals
  - 983 in the public sector, 1801 in the private
  - 440 427 beds: 55% in the public sector
- 31 university hospitals
- 511 regional hospitals
- 20 cancer centers
- 327 dedicated to mental illnesses

Direction de la recherche des études et de la statistique, 2008
Vaccination policy in France

- Recommendations are proposed to the Minister of Health by the High Council of Public health
- Published every year by the Institute of Epidemiology and Surveillance
- Recommendations for the general population and for specific groups (among whom HCWs)
Immunizations and healthcare workers

• 2 types of recommendations:
  – Mandatory:
    • BCG (1950’s)
    • Diphtheria, tetanus, poliomyelitis (1950’s)
    • Hepatitis B (1991)
      – Provide a certificate before being admitted
  – « Recommended » (i.e. not mandatory)
    • Influenza (2000)
    • Pertussis (2004)
    • Varicella (2004)
    • Measles (2005)
      – No certificate requested
The « Avancées Vaccinales » Group

- Group of 45 experts in vaccinology (clinicians, scientists, pharmacists, epidemiologists)
- Supported by Sanofi-Pasteur-MSD
- Aims to promote vaccination among HCWs and global French population
- Started in 2006, ending soon...
Why doing this survey?

• Vaccine coverage rates vary a lot, depending on the vaccination, the HCW category...

• No national recommendation for implementation of the immunization policy

• 2 key persons for the vaccine policy in hospitals:
  – Occupational physician (OP)
  – Head of the hospital infection and prevention committee (HIPC)

• Vaccination rates of the staff will soon be part of the evaluation of the hospital quality system (« ICALIN » index)
Methods

• Questionnaire written by the AV expert group
  – Awareness of vaccine coverage rates for the HCWs by category
  – Specific vaccinal strategy
  – Management of epidemics

• Sent to each infection control team of a panel of regional and university hospitals
Results

• 30 institutions answered:
  – 70% university hospitals, 30% regional
  – 57% had > 1000 beds
  33% 400 to 1000 beds,
  10% < 400 beds
Results

• Knowledge of coverage rates
  – 59% of the OP, among whom 24% knew the rates by for each professional category
  – 31% of the HIPC, among whom 19% knew the rates by for each professional category
  – > 90% knowledge for DTP, but 50% for pertussis and 23% for influenza
Results

• Communication on vaccination:
  – 59% of OP and 35% of HIPC declared a specific communication on HCWs immunizations in their institution
  – Communication made by:
    • the hygiene and safety committee 62%
    • Specific meetings 42%
    • Intranet 19%
    • Traditional mailing 12%
Results

- Vaccinations suggested by the OP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccinations suggested by the occupational physician at the annual visit.</th>
<th>Vaccinations proposées par la médecine du travail lors de la visite annuelle.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dTP</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pertussis</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis B</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varicella</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measles</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Several possible answers for each vaccination; dTP: diphtheria–tetanus–poliomyelitis.
Results

• Epidemics:
  – 55% faced a pertussis epidemics
  - 42% a measles epidemics
Discussion

• Vaccine coverage rates are not well known
• They remain low
• Communication media are not always used to promote vaccination
• Emphasis are made on mandatory vaccines (DTP, hep B) + influenza, but not on other useful and « non polemical » vaccines, such as measles, varicella and pertussis
Actions

• Communicate with new media
• Communicate often and accurately
• Communicate on every vaccine, not always influenza
• Implicate more the infection prevention teams: immunizations are part of their job, not only bacterial resistance and ATB use...
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