Pneumococcal Vaccination Rates after a Pharmacist Conducted Medication Therapy Review (MTR)

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BACKGROUND

• Pneumococcal disease, which includes pneumonia, bacteremia, and meningitis, causes more deaths in the United States than all other vaccine preventable diseases
• Populations at greatest risk for pneumococcal disease include those ≥65 years, smokers, and people with certain medical conditions such as asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
• Pharmacists can identify patients at high-risk for pneumococcal disease during medication therapy reviews (MTRs)
• North Carolina law allows pharmacists to provide pneumococcal vaccination to patients ≥18 years with a prescription

OBJECTIVE

• To identify the need for pneumococcal vaccination in patients who received a pharmacist-conducted medication therapy review (MTR) and determine post-MTR vaccination rates

METHODS

• Prospective, multi-site study at two rural community pharmacies and one private physician practice
• Patients ≥65 years at the community pharmacies or referred by the physician
• July 1, 2010-February 4, 2011

RESULTS

• 104 MTRs were conducted during the study dates
• Before MTR,
  • 77 patients (74%, 77/104) were up-to-date with pneumococcal vaccination
  • 27 patients (26%, 27/104) were eligible for vaccination
  • Of the 27 patients eligible for vaccination, upon follow-up with the primary care provider (PCP),
    • 21 patients (77%, 21/27) received vaccination
    • 6 patients (23%, 6/27) refused vaccination
  • Following MTR,
    • 98 patients (94%, 98/104) were up-to-date with pneumococcal vaccination

CONCLUSIONS

• Pharmacist-led MTRs are an avenue for improving pneumococcal vaccination rates through patient education regarding CDC recommendations, enhanced access to vaccine, and, when authorized, vaccine administration
• Pneumococcal vaccination rates during MTR increased vaccination rates by 20%, which was statistically significant in our patient population (P<0.001)
• Following MTR, our patient population achieved a vaccination rate that was higher than reported national, state, and local vaccination rates
• We strongly encourage pharmacists to review vaccination status during MTR and communicate with PCPs in an effort to improve patient care

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