A comparative study to compare sickness duration before and after implementation of the policy of fully paid phased return

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ABSTRACT

Aim: To study the factors influencing uptake of pandemic influenza vaccination amongst healthcare workers of an Acute NHS Hospital Trust in England.

Methods: This is a quantitative questionnaire study conducted to compare characteristics of a random sample of 497 employees, 247 of whom had obtained the swine flu vaccination during 2009-2010 and 250 of whom had not. The random samples were generated from lists of individuals obtained by querying the databases of Occupational Health and Human Resources departments.

Results: The questionnaire response rate was 38.63% (192/497). The factors which positively influenced swine flu vaccine uptake were acceptance of seasonal influenza vaccination in the same year (odds ratio: 76.34), history of having received seasonal flu vaccination in the previous year (odds ratio: 4.7), perception of high personal risk of getting swine flu infection (increased swine flu vaccine uptake by factor of 4.69, also found to be a very significant factor on multivariate analysis). Wishes of close family members with regards to individuals getting vaccinated ($p=0.00$), perception that vaccination would protect family members ($p=0.00$) and perception of vaccination reducing swine flu infection transmission to patients ($p=0.002$) also significantly influenced uptake of swine flu vaccine positively. The perception of adequacy of vaccination provision in the trust influenced uptake (odds ratio 3.471 (1.50 to 8.02)). The media attention that swine flu received appears to have positively influenced the respondents who went on to have the vaccine ($p=0.01$).

Conclusion: As far as we know, this is the first study which shows that simultaneous administration of swine flu vaccination with seasonal influenza vaccination at the same visit but at different injection sites increases the likelihood of uptake of swine flu vaccination in healthcare workers. This principle could be used in future for other vaccination campaigns. The study results also reiterated the importance of providing information about the adequacy of availability of vaccination.