

Improving Pediatric Influenza Vaccination in the Perioperative Setting

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BACKGROUND

- Approximately 50% of children in the United States are still unvaccinated against influenza each season
- Influenza vaccination coverage in the pediatric population stays suboptimal despite national recommendations
- The perioperative setting offers a unique opportunity to improve vaccine access
- Multidisciplinary team developed a perioperative influenza vaccination program to increase rates and access

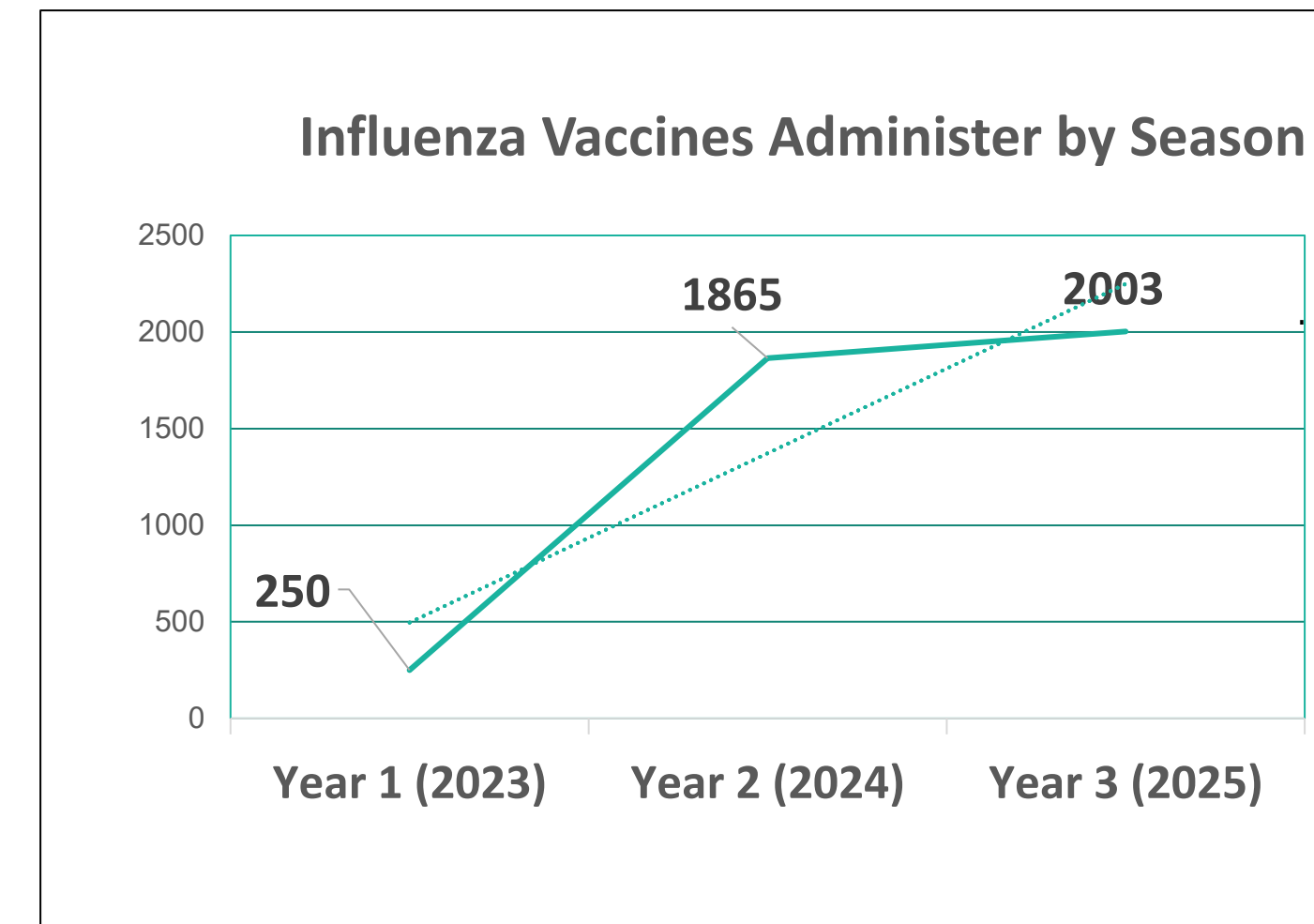
AIM/PURPOSE

- Increase perioperative influenza vaccination rates by 5% during the 2024–2025 influenza season
- Improve equitable access to influenza vaccination for pediatric patients presenting for surgery or sedation
- Standardized staff and caregiver education to support informed vaccination decisions

Methodology

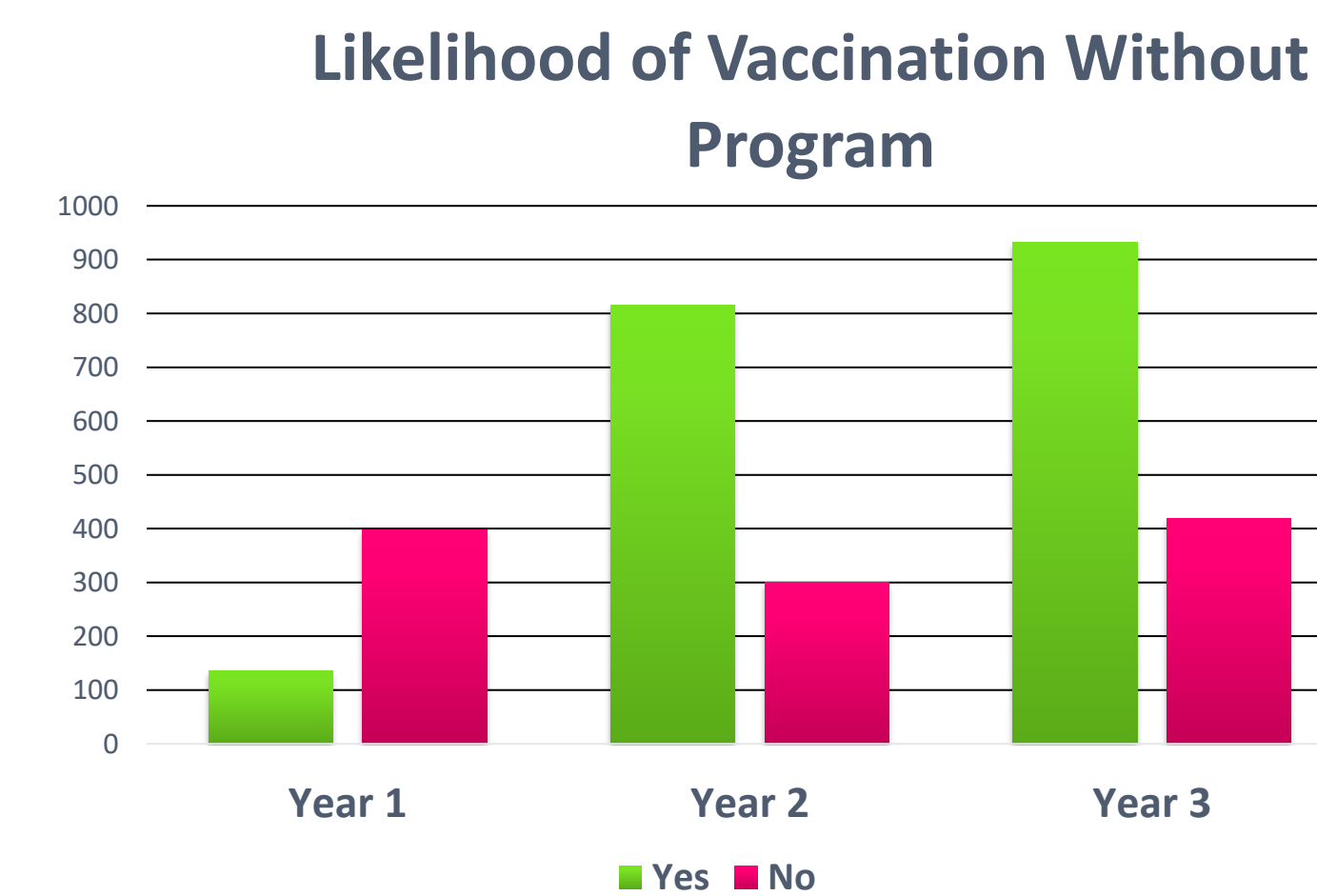
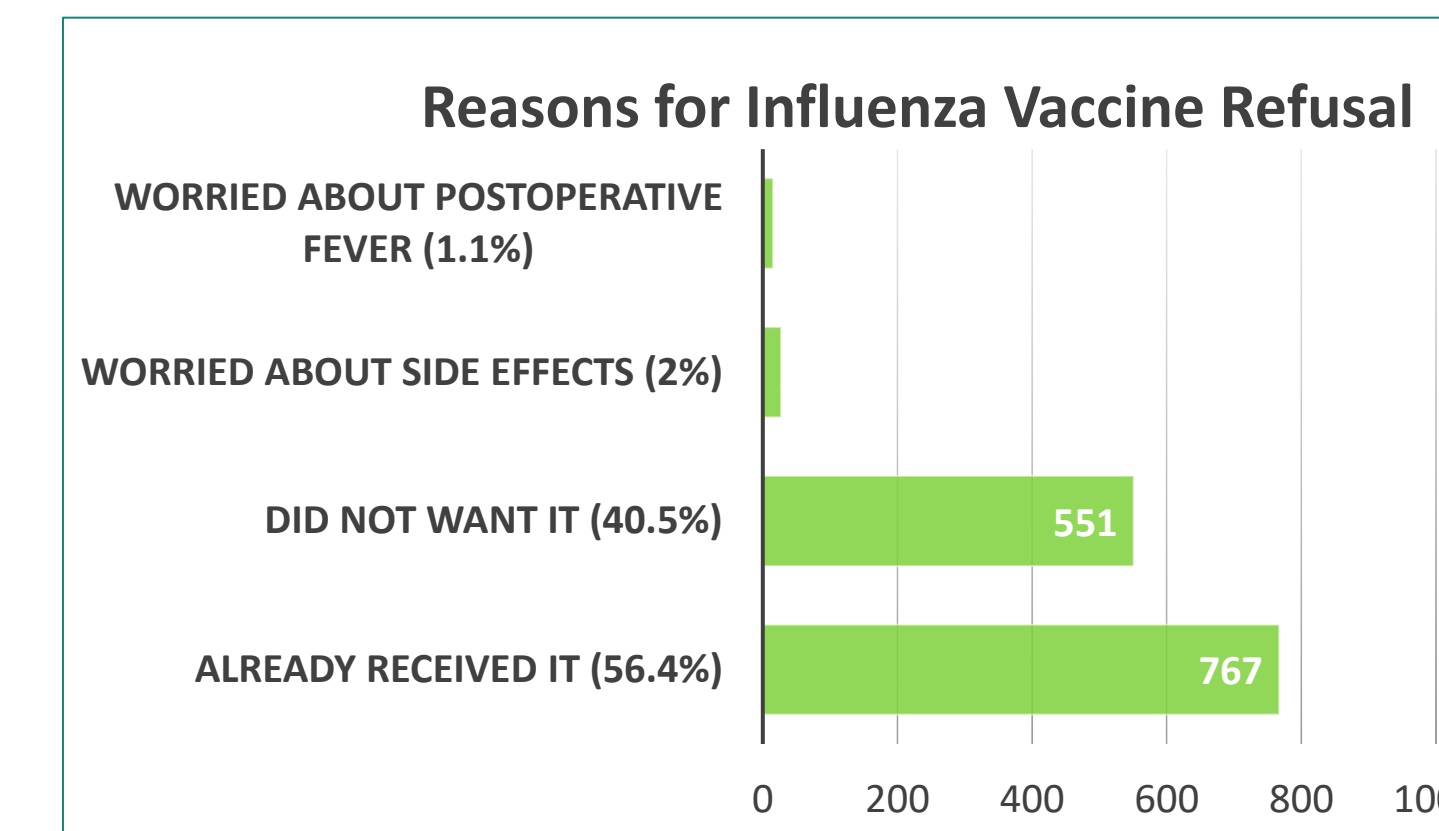
- Multidisciplinary stakeholder engagement promoted shared ownership, role clarity and alignment with patient safety priorities
- Preoperative nurses provided frontline input into workflow decisions for vaccine administration and documentation into electronic health record (EHS)
- EHS order sets created to support workflow
- Perioperative nurses (PACU and OR) received targeted training and education through “roving cart” sessions that reinforced best practices including proper injection technique and administration, workflow integration, documentation, and side effects. A special emphasis was placed on clear and consistent communication between the nursing teams
- Daily huddles provided staff with timely reminders
- Laminated Centers for Disease Control (CDC) vaccine information sheet (VIS) placed in waiting areas for caregiver education prior to consent
- Preoperative Nursing navigators served as key educators for parents and caregivers providing counseling and supporting informed vaccine decision making. www.chop.edu/navigating-flu-season
- Day of surgery (DOS) education provided by nursing staff
- QR code used for caregiver questionnaires (pre-op) and vaccine survey (post op) via REDCap (data collection tool)

Results



- Delayed start year 1 due to workflow and supply readiness
- Significant increase noted in vaccines administered following full program implementation (646% increase from Year 1 to Year 2)
- Sustained growth across consecutive influenza seasons (7.4%)

- Majority of declinations were due to prior vaccination or caregiver preference rather than safety concerns



- Majority of caregivers reported vaccinations would not have occurred with the program, increasing from 25.3% in Year 1 to over 69% in subsequent seasons

The perioperative setting is a powerful and underutilized opportunity to improve pediatric influenza vaccination access and uptake

Conclusion and Next Steps

- Increased staff ownership allowing frontline nursing staff to independently lead the annual vaccination workflow, supporting program sustainability
- Nursing discharge navigators continue to provide education and counseling to care givers prior to the DOS via their MyChart account and video visits
- Pre-operative nursing staff independently review the questionnaire with caregivers on DOS and provide VIS counseling
- Continued work with PACU unit Nursing informatic representative to monitor current order sets and provide education as needed with rotating residents/fellows
- Accessing the preoperative parent questionnaire via a QR code was difficult. Questionnaire was integrated into EHS pre-operative domain to allow easier access for caregivers
- Continue to provide yearly education to nursing staff throughout the perioperative complex
- Partner with ambulatory settings to expand the program, refine data collection methods, and evaluate care model sustainability
- Establish partnerships with other institutions to support program growth

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