

A Captive Audience

Team Leader: Jill R. Smith MSN APR CNP

Akron Childrens Hospital, Akron, Ohio

Team Members: Andrew Meyer MD, Laurie Engler MHA CPHQ

Background Information: This project addressed two of the organization's population health goals: increase seasonal influenza vaccination rates and well child care visits. Prior organizational policy restricted immunizations in the perioperative period. Evidence has recommended that healthcare providers use every opportunity to administer flu vaccines to eligible individuals. The Covid Pandemic impacted well child care (WCC) significantly. Well child visits declined nationally. Population Health challenged every department to schedule delayed appointments with every contact. The Perioperative Surgical Home (PSH) developed a novel QI program for administering flu vaccines and scheduling well child visits during the Perioperative Surgical home preoperative clinic visit.

Objectives of Project: Promote the health and well being of all perioperative patients by providing protection from influenza and promoting well child care visits.

Process of Implementation: Our team utilized quality methodology to identify key drivers and develop a process to achieve our aim of increasing the percentage of eligible patients in the PSH that are vaccinated from 0-20%. A multi-disciplinary team using evidence-based practices to update the organization perioperative vaccine policy. The team collaborated with the organization influenza team for resource utilization and process mapping. Our well childcare registration process required utilization of the organization procedure and obtaining registration privileges for appropriate staff. The PSH developed a process to increase the eligible patients from 0-10%.

Statement of Successful Practice: In three seasons of administering influenza vaccines, we achieved our goal with our peak significantly higher than our goal. No surgical case cancellations were attributed to vaccine administration and no adverse anesthesia events were reported. Well child visits are a work in process as the process is implemented and standard work are established.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Peri-anesthesia Nursing: Seasonal influenza vaccinations can safely occur in a screened presurgical population and meet population health goals. The expansion of well child care promotion enhances overall health of surgical patients promoting surgical outcomes. Whenever a patient is in the care of a perioperative surgical team, it is an opportunity to promote health and enhance outcomes.