

Caregiver attitudes and practices towards influenza vaccination of their medically at-risk children

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Children with medical co-morbidities are at increased risk of **severe influenza** infections

- Hospitalisation: Gill et al
- ICU admission risk & length of hospitalisation¹

Influenza vaccination has remained low in and affected by past events

- 5-25% influenza vaccination uptake²
- Impacted by parental attitudes and adverse vaccine event: **2010 CSL's FluVax linked febrile events³**

Study conducted in three tertiary specialist hospitals outpatient clinics

- Princess Margaret Hospital, Western Australia
- Royal Children's Hospital, Victoria
- Gold Coast University Hospital

Caregiver surveys: Children influenza vaccination **attitudes, practices and recommendations** for influenza

- vaccination in **medically at-risk children** eligible for free flu vaccination
- 556 surveys were analysed from 611 collected
- Multivariable logistic regression for influenza vaccine uptake in 2017



1. Li-Kim Moy, et al. Epi-Infect. 2017; 2. Blyth CC et al. PDI(2016)

Children, Caregivers, and Hospital Physicians

Overall 2017 influenza vaccination Rate: 52% (n = 556)

- VIC: 57% , Gold Coast: 54%, WA: 41%
- **80.1%** of caregivers happy for influenza immunisation during child's future hospitalisation

Uptake Predictor	Vaccinated	Not vaccinated	aOR (95% CI) for Influenza Vaccine uptake in 2017
Hospital physician vaccine recommendation	81% (173)	35% (117)	4.3 (2.6 – 7.3)
Lack of any vaccine recommendation	22% (36)	66% (254)	0.1 (0.08 – 0.20)
Previous hospital-based vaccination	75% (104)	45% (186)	3.1 (1.8 – 5.4)
Caregiver believing vaccine to be ≥50% effective	63% (233)	32% (57)	3.8 (2.4 – 6.0)
Caregiver expressing concerns about vaccine side effects	31% (44)	60% (246)	0.5 (0.2 – 0.9)



Take home messages

1. Reported Influenza Vaccination was higher than previously observed: **52.4%**
- Based on self-reported caregivers (Bias or over-reporting?)
2. Importance of Caregivers' belief in **effectiveness and safety** of Influenza vaccines
- Similar to previous observations in Australian children
3. A recommendations by child's **hospital physicians** and **previous uptake in hospital setting** predicted future uptake
4. Lack of **any recommendation**: Strongest uptake barrier

Further exploration of strategies to support hospital physician recommendation's and hospital-based influenza vaccination programs

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