

Background



Maternal influenza and pertussis vaccination recommended for maternal and neonatal benefits but uptake variable in Australia

- Access is one barrier to uptake

Pharmacists are accessible, trusted providers of many preventative services

Pharmacist-delivered vaccination has been demonstrated

- to be acceptable to consumers¹
- to increase uptake of adult vaccinations^{1,2}

Aims of this study

- To explore the current attitude and practice of pharmacists to vaccination in Australia
- To explore the barriers for pharmacists in implementing vaccination services in Australia
- To explore differences in knowledge/ attitude of pharmacists to vaccinating pregnant women compared with other adults

Method

- Survey (online and paper) of members of Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) and Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Network
- April- June 2017
- Recruited through: email newsletters, Victorian PSA conference, PSA monthly educational meetings

¹Nissen Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research 2016; ²Nurse Vaccine 2016

Results- 156 responses



77% provided influenza vaccination in their pharmacy

- More likely amongst regional (38/42, 91%) than metropolitan (80/112, 71%, $p=0.01$) pharmacists

75% (102/137) not received enough education on immunisation in undergraduate pharmacy training

Maternal vaccination

- 78% reported being asked for advice about maternal vaccines at least once a week
- Less comfortable discussing vaccinations with pregnant women compared with non-pregnant adults (77% vs 87%, $p=0.005$)
- Less comfortable administering vaccinations to pregnant women (55% vs 77%, $p<0.001$)
- Maternal vaccination less frequently provided (42% influenza, 36% pertussis)
 - although one third of those not providing maternal vaccination intended to do so in the future

Conclusions



Even if pharmacists do not provide vaccines, pregnant women frequently ask for advice

- adequate training of all pharmacists in maternal vaccination is essential

Pharmacists less comfortable discussing & administering vaccines to pregnant women compared to other adults

- further education and support in maternal vaccination important in supporting pharmacists in this emerging role

Needs to be more focus on providing pertussis vaccine for pregnant women

Pharmacists can fulfil an important role in increasing access to immunisation particularly

- in rural and remote settings where access to primary healthcare services can be more limited
- maternal vaccination as maternity care services often not equipped to store or administer vaccinations on site