Quality improvement process to increase compliance with influenza vaccination in adults with cystic fibrosis

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Background: Cystic fibrosis (CF) patients are required to be seen in the CF clinic every 3 months, resulting in frequent lengthy visits to the clinic for testing and consultations with providers. During influenza season, people with CF are told to go down to another floor or an outside establishment to be vaccinated. In most cases, the person with CF does not want to spend any more time at the clinic and does not want any more potential exposure. This results in them having to remember to get the vaccine elsewhere and make the time to do it. To get all people with CF vaccinated appropriately and increase patient satisfaction, the vaccination process should be improved.

Methods: The Mayo Clinic cystic fibrosis team worked to improve influenza vaccination compliance by developing a process for vaccination administration in the cystic fibrosis clinic (CFC). Between September 2021 and March 2022, the nurse coordinator administered the influenza vaccine to people with CF who consented. When the patient declined the vaccine or had received it elsewhere, it was appropriately documented and recorded on a spreadsheet. Patients who were vaccinated (outside of Mayo and at Mayo) and those who had not (declined vaccine or unable to get information about vaccine status) were tracked.

Results: During the 2020 influenza season, 64% of patients were thought to have been vaccinated, all of which were received outside the clinic. During the 2021 season, 92% of patients were vaccinated at Mayo Clinic or outside with accurate documentation and validation (Figure 1). In 2020, reporting and documenting of influenza vaccination was not consistent or standardized. The team relied on records that flowed over in the system. In 2021, the option to receive the vaccination in the clinic provided the clinic with more accurate information about the vaccine, increased vaccine compliance, and increased patient satisfaction.

Figure 1. Comparison of influenza vaccine compliance from 2020 and 2021

Conclusions: The influenza vaccination process change has helped the team establish a more accurate and efficient way to document vaccination and a process to increase vaccination compliance.