

Study Spotlight

Brant County Health Unit

Examining Reasons for Incomplete Immunization Status among Day Care Children

Fediurek, J., MacDonald, L., Tober, J., Stevens, A., Costie, M., Genua, J., Hesch, R., Paddock, K.

Purpose:

This study examined the reasons why day care children may have an incomplete recorded immunization status. Specifically, is it caused by:

- a failure of children to be immunized, or
- a failure to report immunization records to the health unit?

Methods:

- Examined the immunization records of children who received suspension orders between November 2007 and February 2008.
- Categorized children based on their immunization status prior to suspension date:

- Complete immunization status = failure to report immunization records
- Incomplete immunization status = failure to immunize



Conclusions:

- Approximately half the children studied were overdue for at least one vaccine.
- The other half had already received the vaccines; therefore improving vaccine record collection methods could potentially reduce the amount of follow-up required by 50%.
- Coverage rates are higher than public health records indicated; particularly for vaccines enforced by suspension.

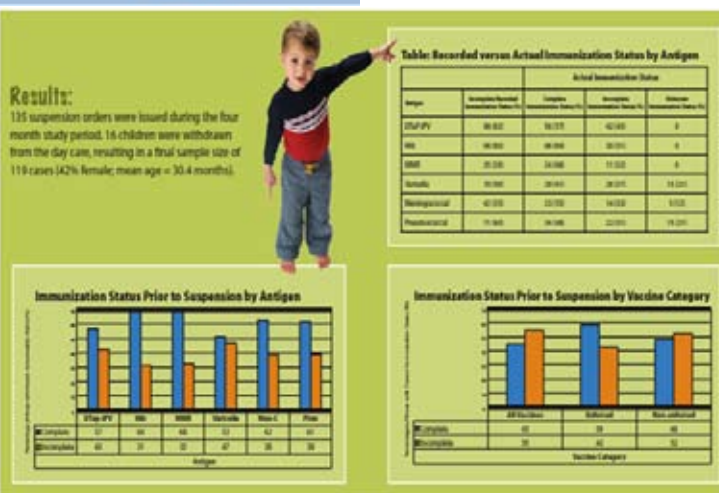
Recommendations:

- Further investigate reasons for incomplete records for non-enforced vaccines.
- Increase parental awareness of the responsibility to report immunization records to the health unit.
- Investigate alternative sources of immunization record collection (e.g. from physicians).
- Examine the feasibility of expanding the suspension process to require documentation for varicella, pneumococcal disease and meningococcal disease.

Correspondence: Please contact Jill Fediurek at jfediurek@bchu.org



This project was made possible in part by grant funding from Wyeth Pharmaceuticals



Need more information on these projects?

Ask your Wyeth Public Health Educator about these projects or visit the Canadian Public Health Association's CCIAP website for more information about the grant program. The direct link is www.immunize.cpha.ca/english/hcprovd/grantse/ppgrante.htm

The content of this newsletter is based on proposals and unpublished reports submitted to Wyeth by Partnering for Protection grant recipients and have been verified by each grant recipient.



Wyeth



Wyeth's Partnering for Protection Grant Program:

Celebrating Success

What's Inside:

Canadian Immunization
Conference Highlights

Cold Chain Reactions

ImmuTrax Scheduler:
Touchdown!

In the Works...

Don't Reinvent the Wheel!

Study Spotlight: Examining
Reasons for Incomplete
Immunization Status among
Day Care Children



Wyeth believes that a partnership approach will help strengthen the ability to implement education and research programs and achieve routine childhood immunization coverage goals. As part of the Partnering for Protection Grant Program, Wyeth supports activities and programs aimed at creating new approaches to understand and/or improve routine pneumococcal childhood immunization coverage rates in Canada. For more information about this grant program, please contact your local Wyeth Public Health Educator.

Canadian Immunization Conference Highlights

Partnering for Protection Grant recipients were very busy sharing all of their hard work at the Canadian Immunization Conference held in Toronto from November 30 to December 3, 2008. Wyeth supported a special booth in the exhibit hall to facilitate a rotating showcase of individual grant projects. During each break period grant recipients were available to share details of their projects and in many cases provide handouts to conference delegates. Information resources like Vancouver Coastal Health's Parent Book on Immunization and Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health's Resource to Address Parents' Concerns About Childhood Vaccines were in very high demand throughout the week.

Gerri the Giraffe was a colorful addition at the Canadian Immunization Conference. Gerri was on hand to support Ottawa Public Health's poster outlining their recent grant project involving coloring contests to improve immunization reporting in the region.

On December 2nd, Wyeth sponsored an evening poster session to showcase all grant projects. Over 200 attendees took part in this session which provided the opportunity for one-on-one discussion with grant recipients. Special thanks to all of those who participated in this celebration of success!



Joan Johnston, Atlantic Health Sciences Corporation, Saint John, New Brunswick



Gerri the Giraffe, Ottawa Public Health, Ontario



Education event attendees



Line Lauzon, Windsor-Essex County Health grant recipient with education event attendees



Dr. Tania Diener (left) and Morag Granger (right), Regina Qu'Appelle Region grant recipients



Colette Couture, Agence de santé et de services sociaux de la Capitale-Nationale grant recipient with education event attendees



Left to Right Top: Tania Diener, Morag Granger, Joan Johnston, Michelle Schepers, Joan Watson, Lynne Johnson, Karen Sweiger, Michelle Cheesman, Lisa MacDonald, Margot Smythe, Susan Otten/ **Bottom Left to Right:** Colette Couture, Line Lauzon, Jill Federiuk

Cold Chain Reactions

The reaction has been positive to physician office visits conducted by staff from Windsor-Essex County Health Unit in Ontario. These visits have been part of a vaccine usage study. The goals of the project are to assess the compliance rate of the Ontario vaccine and storage guidelines and also evaluate the attitudes of health care professionals towards the delivery of simultaneous injections. The information gathered has been used to determine how to better help the healthcare community improve vaccine safety and delivery.

In conjunction with the study, an online, voluntary certification course on maintaining the vaccine cold chain has been developed as well as a second module covering the facts about simultaneous injections. These courses are available online, on CD and also in print.

Follow-up surveys and inspections will be conducted in late 2009 to determine training effectiveness and improvements to cold chain and immunization schedule adherence.

Visit Windsor Essex's website for more details.

<http://www.wehealthunit.org/immunizations/vaccine-study>

Sample view:



ImmuTrax Scheduler: Touchdown!



Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region's ImmuTrax web-based immunization scheduler will allow parents to receive an e-mail reminder two weeks before their child is due for immunization. The aim is to improve on-time immunizations in the health region. The Regina Leader Post published an article describing the new web service in November, 2008.

As part of the grant project's public awareness campaign, the health department has partnered with Saskatchewan Roughriders' players Gene Makowsky and Mike Abou-Mechrek to create posters and pens with their endorsement. Bookmarks promoting the web site were also developed and inserted into books signed out at local public libraries. Innovative collaborations!

New Reminder System for Parents

Regina Leader-Post (CAN) (11/05/08) Cowan, Pamela

In Canada, the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region has set up an online system called ImmuTrax to remind parents when their child is due for a vaccination. Some of the reminders include those for the meningococcal vaccination, the pneumococcal vaccine, the measles, mumps, and rubella shot, and the booster for tetanus, whooping cough, diphtheria, and polio. Morag Granger, the region's manager of public health nursing, said that because parents go back to work a year after their child is born, some forget about vaccines when their children are between the ages of one year and 18 months. The online system sends out reminders to parents of newborns to children age four years. Once the child is of school age, parents receive an information package with a consent form that notifies them that the child is due for an immunization. The ImmuTrax website offers a recommended schedule for childhood vaccines, and information on the vaccines and the diseases they prevent.

*reprinted with permission of the Regina Leader Post

In the Works...

Agence de santé et de services sociaux de la Capitale-Nationale in association with the Centre de Recherche du CHUL (CHUQ) will be determining whether personalized feedback with ten of the busiest vaccinating medical clinics in Quebec City makes a difference in reducing immunization delays. Research results will be available by the end of the year.

Expect to learn more about Atlantic Health Sciences Corporation's gap analysis on pediatric immunization in South Western New Brunswick

in spring 2009. The research will help determine the key reasons for cancellations at clinics and will guide strategies to reduce them.

The University of Ottawa is awaiting ethics approval to move forward with research aimed at measuring the effectiveness of an information tool kit in improving immunization rates for new Canadians and immigrant families. The project will be completed by December 2009 and the tools, if found to be effective, will most certainly have great relevance to other immigrant populations across the country.

Don't Reinvent the Wheel!

There has been great interest in duplicating some the project strategies that have been implemented over the years under the Wyeth Partnering for Protection Grant Program. Grant recipients have been pleased to share their approaches and findings so that other health departments can benefit from their experience. Check out the *Innovations: From Concept to Completion* fact sheet series that provide "how to" tips to implement similar projects in your area. Also browse the resources available at the Canadian Public Health Association's CCIAP website link: www.immunize.cpha.ca/english/hcprovdl/grantse/ppgrante.htm.

How to Fact Sheets

- Automated Reminder/Recall System and Outreach Follow-up
- Immunization Displays and Parent Resources
- Post Partum Immunization Phone Calls
- Educating Health Care Professionals on the Practicalities of Immunization
- Contests to Improve Immunization Reporting

Web Resources

www.immunize.cpha.ca/english/hcprovdl/grantse/ppgrante.htm

- About Wyeth's Partnering for Protection Grant Project
- Grant Project Summaries
- How to Fact Sheets
- Web links to other grant project tools
- Educational Tools:
 - Vancouver Coastal Health Materials
 - Parent Book on Immunization
 - Immunization Poster Display
 - Vaccine Preventable Disease Poster
 - Quick Reference Kit
 - Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health Flip Book
 - Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Immunization Brochure
 - Windsor-Essex County Health Unit Materials
 - Letter to Doctor
 - Physician Office Visit Survey 2008
 - Multiple Injection Questionnaire
 - Multiple Injection Cover Letter 2008
 - Multiple Injection Certificate
 - Maintain Cold Chain Poster