

Post Partum Phone Calls and Information Sessions: Rural Public Health Program

Type of Project: Education/Research
Organization: Calgary Health Region
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calgary health region

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Objectives:

- For the year 2007 – each post partum family that reside in the Calgary Health Region – Rural Area will receive a phone call at 6 weeks post partum to discuss the vaccination program and answer questions.
- In 2007, rural post partum families will be invited to a monthly information session to discuss/have questions on vaccination answered by a Public Health Nurse.
- In 2007, families who attend a session will have increased initiation rates for the vaccine program (compared to rates in those who do not attend the session)
- In 2007, an increase in overall immunization coverage rates will occur (compared to 2006 for each rural public health office))

Target Audience: Parents

Project Summary: Throughout Alberta the trend for the post-partum families has changed to shortened hospital stays and early maternity discharge. Public Health Nurses (PHNs) are now visiting families with one to three day old babies. On those visits, the priorities for the families include breast feeding issues, maternal fatigue, etc. Due to these immediate concerns, there is decreased readiness for learning/discussing the Alberta Universal Immunization Program which includes Prevnar® Vaccine. Two new initiatives will be implemented and evaluated:

- i) 6 Weeks Post Partum Contact: A Public Health Nurse will contact the family at 6 weeks postpartum to review the Alberta Universal Immunization Program which includes the Prevnar® Program. This provides a reminder for the families to book an appointment plus an opportunity to discuss any issues and have questions answered regarding the vaccine program. Approximately 2550 family contacts will be made based on birth rates.
- ii) Post Partum Information Sessions: A Public Health Nurse will provide information sessions on vaccination topics for post partum mothers every 4th week for 3 Health Service Areas

The two initiatives will be evaluated by comparison of initiation rates of vaccination in the infants whose parent/guardian attended/did not attend the information session. Comparisons of vaccine coverage rates for 2006 and 2007 will also be measured.

Completion Date: April 2008

Outcomes:

Under this project, 2150 post partum families were contacted over a one year period and approximately 64% of parents indicated that they planned to have their child vaccinated as per the Alberta Health and Wellness recommended schedule. As a result of this project, the region has consistently maintained zero children needing follow-up at the three month surveillance point and close to 100% uptake “on time” has been achieved. Immunization coverage rate statistics for the 2007 cohort will be evaluated at the end of 2008.