Vaccinations Administered During Off-Clinic Hours at a National Community Pharmacy: Implications for Increasing Patient Access and Convenience

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Background

• Approximately 50,000 adults die annually from vaccine-preventable diseases in the United States. Although childhood rates of vaccination are relatively high, most adults are not vaccinated as recommended, leaving them vulnerable to illness and death.1

• While most traditional clinic-based providers administer vaccines during routine business hours,2 community pharmacies offer expanded hours that allow patients to receive vaccinations at more convenient times.

Methods

• All claims for vaccinations administered at a national community pharmacy from August 2010 to July 2011 were analyzed.

• The time of vaccination was categorized as routine (9am to 6pm weekdays) or off-hours, consisting of weekdays 6pm to 9am, weekends, and federal holidays.

• Demographic characteristics were described.

Results

• During the study period, there were 6.3 million vaccinations administered at the pharmacy to patients with a median age of 62; of these 92.1% were for influenza and 7.9% were for other vaccine-preventable diseases such as pneumonia, shingles, and meningitis.

• Approximately 31.7% of all vaccinations were provided during off-hours: weekends (56.1%), evenings (34.6%), and holidays (9.3%). Of the 44.2% of patients over 64 years of age and the 53.0% who were 18-64 years, 25.4% and 37.1%, respectively, received vaccination during off-hours.

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Results (continued)

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Conclusions

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