Medication Protocol for the Seasonal Influenza Peer Vaccination Programme - Three-Hour Programme for Registered Nurses and Registered Midwives

Category 1 Approved by the Nursing & Midwifery Board of Ireland (CEUs 3)
RATIONALE
Influenza is an acute illness of the respiratory tract with systemic symptoms which can affect all age groups (National Immunisation Office 2018). Older persons and those with chronic health conditions are especially vulnerable to influenza infection and its complications when they are hospitalised or reside in continuing care facilities (Lindegren et al 2015). Pregnant women are also at particularly high risk of severe complications, hospitalisation and death following influenza infection (Mertz et al. 2017). Children under 4 years of age also come into the high-risk category. During the 2017/2018 influenza season, there were one hundred and seventy two confirmed influenza cases admitted to critical care units in Ireland and 173 influenza-associated deaths reported. The highest rates of influenza hospitalisations were in those aged 65 years and older (Health Protection Surveillance Centre 2018).

The Influenza vaccine remains the best protection against influenza and is recommended by all major expert bodies including the World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and the National Immunisation Advisory Committee of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, in preventing an estimated 59% of laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated illness (Osterholm et al. 2012). Health Care Workers (HCW) are a major channel for the transmission of infections to patients. Research studies indicate that influenza vaccination of health care personnel reduces infection, morbidity and mortality and is therefore, viewed as an evidence-based recommendation (Shrikrishna et al. 2015; Ahmed et al. 2014; Griffin 2014; Nair et al. 2012). However, despite this knowledge, vaccination uptake in Ireland for the 2016/2017 influenza season remained less than the 40% HSE target (Quintyne et al. 2018).

One of the key priorities for the Health Service Executive (HSE) Leadership team is to improve the percentage/rate of influenza vaccine uptake amongst healthcare staff in acute hospitals and long-term care facilities.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY
Adult programme participants bring a wealth of experience and knowledge from their clinical practice, life experiences and prior education; however, they often report lower levels of self-confidence in the academic environment (Lin, 2016). The teaching and learning process should be a stimulating experience which encourages a pro-active approach to learning using an andragogical approach in which enquiry and autonomy feature predominantly (Quinn 2013).

AIM
The aim of this three-hour programme is to facilitate registered nurses and registered midwives, employed by the HSE, to develop the requisite knowledge and skills to safely administer Influvac Inactivated Influenza Vaccine under medicine protocols, through the seasonal influenza peer vaccination programme.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
On completion of this three-hour programme, participants should be able to:

- Critically analyse the professional and legal responsibilities of registered nurses/midwives in administering vaccines to HCWs, under medicine protocol to protect themselves and patients in their care from influenza infection.
• Demonstrate detailed knowledge and understanding of Influvac Inactivated Influenza Vaccine medicine protocol.
• Demonstrate relevant knowledge and understanding of the vaccination process, to participate in the Seasonal Influenza Peer Vaccination Programme.
• Appraise their own practice and take measures to develop and maintain their competence in the administration of vaccines.

INDICATIVE CONTENT

Professional & Legal Issues
Roles & Responsibilities; Scope of Nursing & Midwifery Practice Framework; National Consent Policy; Promoting Quality Patient Care; Building a Culture of Patient Safety: Report of the Commission on Patient Safety; National Standards for Safer Better Healthcare; Nurses and Midwives Act; Open Disclosure; Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Registered Nurses and Registered Midwives; Clinical Governance; Competence; Accountability; Delegation; Documentation; Local Policies, Procedures and Guidelines; Guidance to Nurses and Midwives on Medication Management; Recording Clinical Practice; Use of Medication Protocols; Healthcare Risk Management and Patient Safety; Safety Incident Management Policy; Data Protection; Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland.

Medicine Vaccination Protocol
Definition; Medicine Protocol Framework; Vaccines; Peer Vaccination Schedule and Target Cohort; Information for Healthcare Worker.

Vaccination Process
Rights of Medication Management; Resources and Equipment; Assessment of the HCW; Preparing the Vaccines; Vaccine Administration; Standard Precautions; Storage; Maintenance of the Cold Chain; Adverse Event Following Immunisation; Documentation and Monitoring.

TEACHING & LEARNING STRATEGIES
A variety of teaching and learning strategies will be utilised to maximise participant involvement and draw on their experiences. These include modified lecture, group discussion, reflection and practical demonstration and simulation.

PROGRAMME DURATION
The duration of this programme is 3 hours.

APPLICATION CRITERIA
Registered Nurses/Midwives actively registered with the Nursing & Midwifery Board of Ireland and working in the HSE and must have undertaken:
• Basic Life Support for Health Care Workers within the last 2 years.
• Approved Anaphylaxis Treatment Training programme.
• Approved Medicines Management programme/e-learning programme.
ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING
Participants will undertake self-assessment of competency in clinical practice, using a structured framework.

PROGRAMME EVALUATION
Programme participants are required to complete a written evaluation of the programme, the findings of which are used to inform ongoing quality development of the programme.

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE
A certificate of attendance is presented to nurses and midwives who attend this education programme.

Reference List


Health Protection Surveillance Centre (2018) Influenza and adults 65 years and older.


National Immunisation Office, Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Programme 2017- 2018 Available at http://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/fluinfo/


