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Influenza Vaccination of Brooklyn Residents Questionnaire

RATIONALE:

To learn more about inner city high risk patients knowledge and attitudes regarding influenza and influenza vaccine.

METHODS:

We administered in person influenza vaccine questionnaire in summer 2020 to patients who attended the allergy and immunology clinic for Allergic Rhinitis, Asthma and other immunodeficiency disorders in inner city Brooklyn. After presurvey, all patients received a Flu vaccine education session (www.CDC.gov) and post survey was given. Education given to questions like

Why should people get vaccinated against flu? How do flu vaccine work? Who should get vaccinated this season ? When should I get vaccinated? Why do I need a flu vaccine every year? Does the flu shot increase your risk of getting COVID19 Vaccine effectiveness Can I get seasonal flu even though I got a flu vaccine this year? What protection does a flu vaccine provide if I do get sick with flu ?

RESULTS:

Patients (N = 49) were between 19-92 yrs. (mean 48.2, SD 19.2) with 11/49 (22.4%) male and 38/49 (77.5% female). 23/49 (46.9%) received flu vaccine last season, 6/49 (12.2 %) never received flu vaccination. 34/49 (69.3%) said to have received at least one dose for last 5 yrs., only 4/49 (8.1%) received flu vaccine consecutively for last 5 yrs. 10/43 (23.2 %) who have previously received a flu vaccine said they will never take flu vaccine again. However, after Flu vaccine education session, 6/10 patients (60%) in this group said they would either consider, most likely or definitely take flu vaccine. There were no changes in attitudes after education session for subgroup patients who had never received flu vaccine. 6/6 (100%) still said they will never take flu vaccine.

CONCLUSION:

Health care professionals can target high risk patients in specialty clinics and influence their decision making to immunize against influenza by focused Flu vaccine education session. Patients who are reluctant to re vaccinate can be re educated.