

ACTIVE LEARNING TEMPLATE: Medication

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MEDICATION Influenza Virus Vaccine (Inactivated)

REVIEW MODULE CHAPTER _____

CATEGORY CLASS Vaccine

PURPOSE OF MEDICATION

Expected Pharmacological Action

The Influenza Virus Vaccine stimulates the body's immune response to produce antibodies against the virus. The vaccine contains inactivated virus particles or a weakened live version of the virus. When exposed to the virus later on the body recognizes it quickly and the immune systems kicks into action.

Therapeutic Use

Prevents influenza infection. It also decreases the risk of complications for illnesses such as pneumonia or hospitalizations for high-risk patients.

Complications

Some common reactions include soreness, erythema, or edema at the site of admin. Others include mild fever, headache, or flu-like symptoms. Moderate complications can include allergic reactions such as hives, wheezing, difficulty breathing, or swelling (usually from an allergy to the egg protein).

Medication Administration

For IM admin, inject into deltoid muscle. Administer IM: 0.5 mL/dose (1 dose per season). Administer around September-October, too early or too late can increase risk of illness during the flu season.

Contraindications/Precautions

Severe allergic reactions to a previous influenza vaccine or vaccine component (such as egg, gelatin, or specific stabilizers).

Nursing Interventions

Assess patient allergies and history of allergic reaction to vaccines or medications. Any current illnesses experienced, if so postpone administration. Provide comfort measures, sitting or laying down while administering.

Interactions

There are drug-drug interactions. Some versions of the vaccine such as the live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) should not be given on the same day as another live vaccine. Antiviral medications can reduce the effectiveness of the vaccine by interfering with replication of the live virus. Immunosuppressive drugs (such as corticosteroids or chemotherapy agents) can decrease the immune system response to the vaccine. In this case the vaccine can still work, but protection is not as strong.

Client Education

Inform client that protection takes about 2 weeks to develop. Mild symptoms such as redness, swelling, or soreness are normal and self limiting. Encourage arm movement for dispersion of medication throughout the body.

Evaluation of Medication Effectiveness

Effectiveness can be evaluated by if the patient remains free from influenza or not. If they do get it, severity of symptoms can also measure effectiveness.