

Working Towards Increasing Childhood Vaccine Rates: Quality Improvement

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Improving vaccine rates is crucial for public health and preventing infectious diseases. Given that the healthcare industry is constantly evolving, quality improvement in nursing is crucial. Quality improvement aims to identify poor outcomes and determine how to transform them into ideal ones. Most nurses and other healthcare professionals use the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) framework when providing patient care. Implementing quality improvements prioritizes the objective of patient-centered care, raising the probability of precise findings and ideal patient outcomes. These quality improvement standards seek consistent care through data-driven studies and evidence-based methods, reducing the possibility of failures, adverse outcomes, and errors in healthcare systems (QSEN Institute, 2020). Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) encompasses knowledge, skills, and attitudes that further improve quality health outcomes and patient satisfaction.

Article Summary

This article highlights the declining rates of vaccines in childhood before and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, there had been substantial research on child vaccine decline. COVID-19 created new challenges for the immunization status of many children. Additionally, introducing COVID-19 vaccines has exacerbated the factors causing vaccine reluctance. This study was done at a children's hospital in Los Angeles, using a cross-sectional survey using mobile phones to get parents' perspectives on immunizations before and after the epidemic. The main goal was understanding how the epidemic affected routine childhood vaccine hesitancy (He et al., 2021). The hesitation to vaccinate does not always translate into a decline in intent to vaccinate, and parents still place a high value on influenza and

routine children's vaccines. Given that vaccine hesitancy is significantly correlated with different family income levels and racial groupings, it may be necessary to develop different communication tactics for each group to reach out to them effectively.

Introduction

This research study examines the declining vaccination rates for children before and after the pandemic. The article highlights the reasons people are against vaccinating. This article is related to quality improvement because it speaks about the barriers to vaccines that cause people not to want to vaccinate their children. The research article aims to increase pediatric vaccination rates by providing quantitative and statistical evidence on the effectiveness and importance of vaccinating children. This article focuses on providing further education for parents of young children.

Overview

The study demonstrates a slight but statistically significant increase in child vaccine reluctance during the COVID-19 epidemic (He et al., 2021). Some parents choose not to vaccinate their children, even though immunizations have significantly reduced morbidity and mortality for several diseases. Vaccinating kids against diseases has many positive effects on their health and general well-being. The study used knowledge, skills, and attitudes to put interventions into practice and raise immunization rates for children (QSEN Institute, 2020). Implementing different interventions can increase the childhood vaccination rate.

Quality Improvement

With the results of this study, a strategy for preserving childhood immunizations and enhancing population health outcomes will reach the right community (He et al., 2021). One of the best ways to break down barriers is through community involvement. Nurses can spread knowledge and increase awareness about the value of immunizations by working with parent organizations, local health departments, and schools. Educating the public and giving them reliable and easy-to-read information on vaccines and the value of immunizations helps lessen the decline in childhood vaccination rates. Addressing common misconceptions and concerns that parents may have would also be beneficial. Using various platforms to spread information, including websites, pamphlets, social media, and local events, will improve childhood vaccine rates. Providing vaccines in various settings, such as medical offices, schools, community centers, and mobile clinics, makes them readily available. The pre-implementation would involve conducting research, obtaining funds, organizing, planning, and raising public awareness. The intra-implementation stage would consist of vaccines, personnel (nurses, certified medical assistants, and support staff to administer the vaccines safely), and technology. Monitoring, evaluation, follow-up, and adherence support would happen post-implementation. Clients will be more inclined to vaccinate their children due to evidence of proper monitoring, evaluation, and follow-up. Implementing the stages affects the nurse because they are responsible for educating patients. The proposed stages will have minimal financial implications, as this is just pulling data.

Application to Nursing

One of the essential roles a nurse can play when advocating and educating about vaccines is to ensure that he or she is up-to-date with current vaccinations. It sends a strong message to patients, caregivers, and the community about the value of vaccination as a preventive measure when nurses prioritize their vaccines. Nurses can advise parents, caregivers, and the community about vaccinations in a precise and evidence-based manner. Educating involves describing the advantages of vaccines, correcting common myths or misconceptions, and discussing vaccine safety. Taking the time to address worries and allay fears can reduce anxiety and improve vaccination acceptability. Following up on those who received a vaccine is a priority for further research. Studies that last a long time can offer helpful information on the safety of vaccinations, including any potential unusual side effects that can appear with time (He et al., 2021).

Practice

There has been an increase in the spreading of false information regarding vaccines during the pandemic, and there have been worries that vaccine hesitancy has grown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time, community health professionals have significantly focused on the value of vaccinations (He et al., 2021). The community, caregivers, and patients can all benefit from nurses' knowledge about immunizations. Nurses build their credibility and establish trust with those who might have doubts or questions by exhibiting their commitment to vaccination.

Education

The research demonstrates that there was increased skepticism throughout the pandemic regarding the efficacy of government-provided vaccines and the reliability of medical professional recommendations (He et al., 2021). Understanding the causes of vaccine hesitancy and creating efficient communication plans to address worries and misunderstandings is essential. Research should concentrate on creating evidence-based communication strategies to counter false information about vaccines and encourage vaccine acceptance. Charts, graphs, and pamphlets are examples of visual tools that help patients better comprehend the safety of vaccines. Nurses might use visual resources like videos or interactive websites to clarify ideas linked to vaccines, how they operate, and their safety.

Research

One of the most common reasons parents decline vaccines is due to the side effects (He et al., 2021). A long-term study of the minimal and temporary side effects of vaccines would be beneficial. A small percentage of people who receive vaccinations may have some extremely unusual vaccine side effects. Long-term studies enable gathering enough information to identify and assess these uncommon adverse effects. Researchers can discover potential links between immunizations and uncommon adverse effects by keeping track of large populations over an extended period. Parents would feel safer vaccinating their children if long-term studies were part of the education.

Conclusion

Quality improvement aims to provide nurses with the information, skills, and attitudes required to continuously improve the safety and effectiveness of healthcare systems and procedures (QSEN Institute, 2020). The QSEN encourages a culture of continual improvement in nursing practice while supporting safe, efficient, and patient-centered care. There are multiple reasons for a significant decrease in the vaccine rate in children. Some significant links are household income levels, racial differences, and a lack of information. More people become susceptible to diseases that vaccinations can prevent. Vaccine administration is one of the best methods for preventing infectious diseases and certain complications. People who are unvaccinated or unable to receive vaccines for medical reasons are at risk of contracting certain diseases since lower vaccination rates can cause outbreaks and increased disease transmission. The significance of increasing vaccination rates is to continue to prevent diseases that were once eradicated. Diseases that were once eradicated are becoming more prevalent in today's society due to the decrease in vaccination status. With thorough vaccine education and reinforcement, nurses and other healthcare professionals play a huge role in providing a safe environment.

References

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