Evaluation of Pharmacist Administered Influenza Vaccination in High Risk Hospital Outpatients (EPIHVO)

Kim Ta1, Lisa Nissen2, Andrew Hale1, Esther Lau2, Liza-Jane McBride3, Ian Coombes1, Krispin Hajkowicz4
1. RBWH Pharmacy Department, 2. Queensland University of Technology, 3. Department of Health, 4. RBWH Infectious Diseases Unit

BACKGROUND
Effective immunisation is a key factor in preventing the spread of influenza. Inadequate time to attend a venue for vaccination is a significant contributor to less than ideal vaccination rates. The Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital pharmacy service has input into ambulatory outpatient services, making it ideal for providing opportunistic vaccinations to patients in a hospital outpatient setting. The aim was to investigate the impact of such a service on increasing access for high-risk patients to receive their annual influenza vaccination.

METHOD
• A service evaluation study assessed the feasibility and impact of an opportunistic model of care.
• Suitably trained hospital pharmacists opportunistically administered influenza vaccinations to patients booked into their clinic between June 10th - July 5th 2019.
• Patients completed a questionnaire about their vaccination experience.

RESULTS
• Pharmacists administered influenza vaccinations to 30 patients.
• 44% of patients had never received an influenza vaccination before.
• 41% of patients would not have been vaccinated this year if this service had not been available.
• Convenience was most frequently cited as main reason for receiving the influenza vaccination at the clinic and the best aspect of service.

CONCLUSION
Patients who had not already been vaccinated by June 2019, and were unlikely to have been vaccinated, received an influenza vaccine administered by the first hospital pharmacy in Queensland to offer this service. This demonstrates the feasibility and impact of this service in improving access and uptake of vaccinations for high-risk patients.