Oral Defense Announcement
University of Missouri – St. Louis Graduate School

An oral examination in defense of the dissertation for the degree
Doctor of Nursing Practice with an emphasis in Family Nurse Practitioner

Samjhana Thapa

Bachelor of Nursing, College of Nursing, Lumbini Medical College, and Teaching Hospital-Nepal, 2017

Pneumococcal Vaccination in Adult Patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Date: September 18, 2023
Time: 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Place: Nursing Administration Building, Room 104

Abstract
Problem: Patients diagnosed with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) are at risk for exacerbations due to pneumonia which could lead to unwanted outcomes, including mortality and morbidity. Despite the existence of evidence indicating that vaccination is an effective preventive measure that can minimize the exacerbations of COPD and lower the likelihood of contracting pneumonia, the uptake of the vaccine remains low among COPD patients.

Method: This quality improvement pilot project used a descriptive, comparative, and retrospective design with the aim to increase pneumococcal vaccination rate by 10% over 3 months. IOWA model guided this project. A convenience sample of COPD patients aged 65 years and older with follow-up appointments within three months (March-June, 2023), who had not received a pneumococcal vaccination was part of the phone call reminder implementation. Data was collected using Excel and SPSS for descriptive analysis.

Results: Vaccination rates were assessed in \( N=17 \) patients with a \( n=9 \); 52.9% vaccinated in the pre-implementation phase (November, 2022-January, 2023) who didn’t have a phone call reminder. In the post-implementation phase (March-June, 2023) there were \( N=21 \); 100% patients vaccinated who had a phone call reminder. This led to an impressive 47.1% increase in vaccination rates, far exceeding the initial 10% target increase. The results indicated that the implementation of phone call reminders could improve pneumococcal vaccination rates among adult COPD patients.

Implication for Practice: Implementing phone call reminders to promote vaccinations among adult COPD patients could be beneficial. Thus, phone call reminders as a communication strategy can be used to increase other vaccination rates and could reduce the burden of vaccine preventable diseases among vulnerable population.

Defense of Dissertation Committee
Vanessa Loyd, Ph.D., DNP, Chairperson
Roxanne Reid, DNP, MSN-ED, RN
Sabita Silwal, MSGIS Specialist