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

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B.S. Nursing, Saint Louis University, 2018
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Encouraging Human Papillomavirus Vaccine Uptake:
A Healthcare Improvement Project

Date: July 12, 2023
Time: 3:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.
Place: Seton Hall Room 106

Abstract
Problem: Human papillomaviruses are the causative agents of >95% of cervical cancers, most oropharyngeal and anogenital cancers, yet vaccination status of the population remains critically low despite Gardasil9 offering robust protection against HPV-related disease.

Methods: This quality improvement project utilized a descriptive, observational design to assess the effect of the HPV Encouragement Bundle, a two-step intervention to improve HPV vaccine uptake. Quantitative data was collected via retrospective chart review to assess the effect of the intervention on first-dose administration of Gardasil9 (series initiation), as well as overall Gardasil9 vaccine uptake.

Results: Following implementation, Gardasil9 first dose uptake increased from 0% to 8.45%, and overall Gardasil9 uptake increased from 0.8% to 12.68%, in pre- and post-intervention groups, respectively. A Chi-square test of independence was performed to examine the relationship between intervention groups and Gardasil9 administration. A statistically significant relationship was established between intervention groups and Gardasil9 administration, with alpha value of .05, $\chi^2(1) = 14.19$, $p < .001$. Persons in the post-intervention group were more likely to be administered a dose of Gardasil9.

Implications for practice: Widespread use of the HPV Encouragement Bundle is a cost-effective, inclusive intervention that could be used to improve Gardasil9 vaccine uptake.

Defense of Dissertation Committee
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