

Pneumococcal immunization history in patients discharged with a primary diagnosis of pneumonia

Purpose:

The Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program, a Medicare value-based purchasing program, which reduces payments to hospitals with excess readmissions began at the beginning of fiscal year 2013. Pneumonia readmission became an identified disease-state by Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program in fiscal year 2012. Due to the complexity of the updated pneumococcal immunization, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services and Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program dropped the pneumococcal immunization rate metric in January 2016. Through fiscal year 2013, Salina Regional Health Center screened every patient, on admission, for the pneumococcal immunization. The pneumococcal immunization rate for Salina Regional Health Center in fiscal year 2013 was 95.6%. After fiscal year 2013 two major changes to pneumococcal immunization took place; the Centers for Disease Control patient selection algorithm became more complex and the immunization became profitable in the outpatient setting. This led to the discontinuation of Salina Regional Health Center pneumococcal immunization screening on admission. The purpose of this study is to identify the pneumococcal immunization rate in patients discharged with pneumonia in fiscal year 2019.

Methods:

A report in Meditech will be used to generate a list of patients discharged with a diagnosis of pneumonia. A pharmacist will then review those patient charts for any exclusion criteria. If no exclusion criteria are met, the pharmacist will record baseline characteristics on each patient in a password-protected, de-identified spreadsheet. The pharmacist will then search each patient in the Kansas Immunization Information System. If patients have immunization records in the Kansas Immunization Information System, the date of any pneumococcal immunization and age when the immunization was administered will be recorded in the aforementioned spreadsheet. The pharmacist will then assess each patient using guideline-directed immunization indications for administration.

Results:

258 total patient visit charts were reviewed, 57 were excluded. Of the 201 total patient visits analyzed, 151 patients (75.1%) were indicated for a pneumococcal vaccination and had not received one documented in KSWebIZ. 149 (74%) of overall patient visits were indicated for a pneumococcal vaccine on the basis of age alone. Of the 201 total patients, 93 reported having a primary care provider working at a clinic owned by Salina Regional. Of those 93 patients, 78 patients (83.69%) were indicated for a pneumococcal vaccination and had not received one documented in KSWebIZ.

Conclusion:

A majority of patients (151 [75.1%]) discharged from Salina Regional Health Center with a primary diagnosis of pneumonia in fiscal year 2019 were not appropriately immunized with the pneumococcal vaccine prior to admission, according to the KSWebIZ database. An opportunity may exist to improve immunization rates and documentation in the Salina Regional Health Center primary-care setting.