National seasonal influenza vaccination in Europe, overview of surveys conducted by Vaccine European New Integrated Collaboration Effort (VENICE) Project

Joita Mereckiene (1,9), S Cotter (1,9), K Johansen (2), S Tozlova (2), P Pennininen (2), P Lopalco (2), F D’Ancona (3,9), D Levy-Bruhl (4,9), O Wichmann (7,9), L Dematte (5,9), P Valentiner-Branth (6,9), I Stankiewicz (7,9), D O’Flanagan (1,9) on behalf of the VENICE project gatekeepers group (10)

METHODS

• Annual collaborative studies
  - Between EU/EEA countries’ ECDC/ VENICE Project
• Studies design
  - Surveys with the same methodology each year
  - Participating countries
    - 28 EU, Norway and Iceland
    - Liechtenstein and Croatia participated in the survey in 2014 for first time
  - Completed
    - By gatekeepers/contact points in each MS
  - Data collection
    - Standardised web-based questionnaire

RESULTS

Seasonal influenza vaccine recommendations by age groups in 2012-13 influenza season in 30 EU/EEA countries

- All countries recommended vaccine to older age groups.
- 23 countries recommended vaccine for individuals ≥65 years.
- Ten countries reported a lower age cut-off (ranging from ≥50 to ≥60 years of age).
- Seven countries recommended vaccination of healthy children

Seasonal influenza vaccine recommendations by risk/targeted groups in EU/EEA countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendations</th>
<th>Number of countries where vaccination was recommended by influenza season</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chronic medical conditions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic pulmonary, cardiovascular and renal diseases</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haematologic/metabolic disorders</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunosuppression due to disease</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatic diseases</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children on long-term aspirin</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morbity obesity (Body Mass Index)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnant women</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommended</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any trimester</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care Workers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommended</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Seasonal influenza vaccination coverage among HCWs in 15 EU/EEA countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Coverage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-13</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONCLUSIONS

• Recommendations for seasonal influenza vaccination
  - Standard in most of the countries
  - Comply with EC and WHO recommendations
  - Vaccination of children is still uncommon
  - The gap between vaccination recommendations and actual vaccination coverage
  - Exists for clinical risk groups, pregnant women and HCWs
  - Some countries do not monitor vaccination coverage for older age groups

• Vaccination coverage
  - For the elderly
    - Laggng in most of the countries except Netherlands, UK
    - Did not increase in five influenza seasons
    - Do not meet EC target
  - HCWs and those with chronic medical conditions
    - Half of countries monitor for HCWs
    - One third countries monitor for chronic medical conditions
    - Moderate or low for these groups of individuals
    - Did not increase in five influenza seasons
  - For pregnant women
    - One third countries monitor vaccination coverage
    - Moderate in UK, but low in the remaining countries

RECOMMENDATIONS

• All countries should strive to collect information
  - On vaccine coverage for the elderly, clinical risk groups, pregnant women and HCWs
  - Absence of uptake data impedes ability to monitor progress

Affiliations
1. Health Protection Surveillance Centre, Dublin, Ireland
2. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, Stockholm, Sweden
3. Infectieziekenhuis Oost-Vlaanderen, Ghent, Belgium
4. National Institute of Public Health – National Institute of Hygiene, Warsaw, Poland
5. Vaccine European New Integrated Collaboration Effort (VENICE) Project
6. The list of gatekeepers is available in the final report on VENICE website: http://venice.cineca.org

Acknowledgments
To VENICE gatekeeper/contact points in each MS