

Improving Influenza Vaccination Rates Among Dialysis Patients: Results of a Quality Management Program in a Large Dialysis Population

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INTRODUCTION

The CDC recommends annual seasonal influenza vaccinations for patients with chronic medical conditions to reduce the risk of influenza-related pneumonia, hospitalization and death. Accordingly, we set a goal to vaccinate 90% of our in-center patient population during the 2008-2009 influenza season.

METHODOLOGY

- Using standardized materials, in September 2008 we initiated a vaccination-awareness campaign in every DaVita® hemodialysis facility nationwide to educate patients about the benefits of immunization.
- Facilities recorded administration of seasonal flu vaccine in the electronic medical record. Facility performance was reported weekly from October 2008 through March 2009.
- Vaccination rates represent the percent of patients vaccinated as of the last day of each month.

VACCINATION AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

- Initiated nationwide vaccination awareness campaign September 2008.
- Offered and administered the seasonal influenza vaccine.
- Provided educational materials and shared 90% vaccination goal with interdisciplinary care team.
 - Interdisciplinary Care Team included nurses, dieticians, social workers, patient care technicians, attending physicians and medical directors.
- Followed up to address concerns and misconceptions for patients who initially refused vaccination.
- Tracked patient vaccination status and facility performance throughout influenza season to identify opportunities for improvement and to provide vaccination to newly admitted patients.

RESULTS

Figure 1. 2008-2009 Vaccination Rates

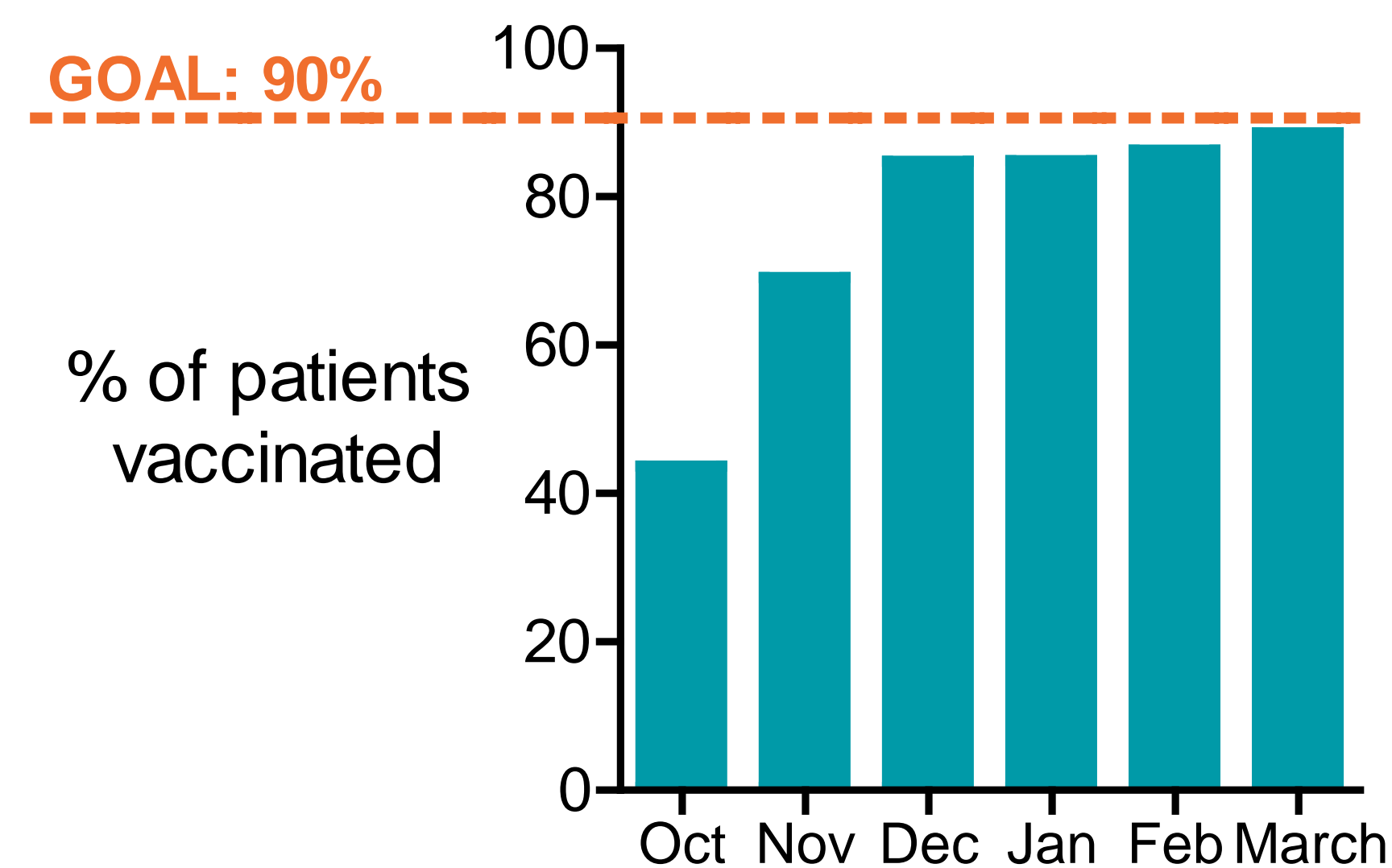
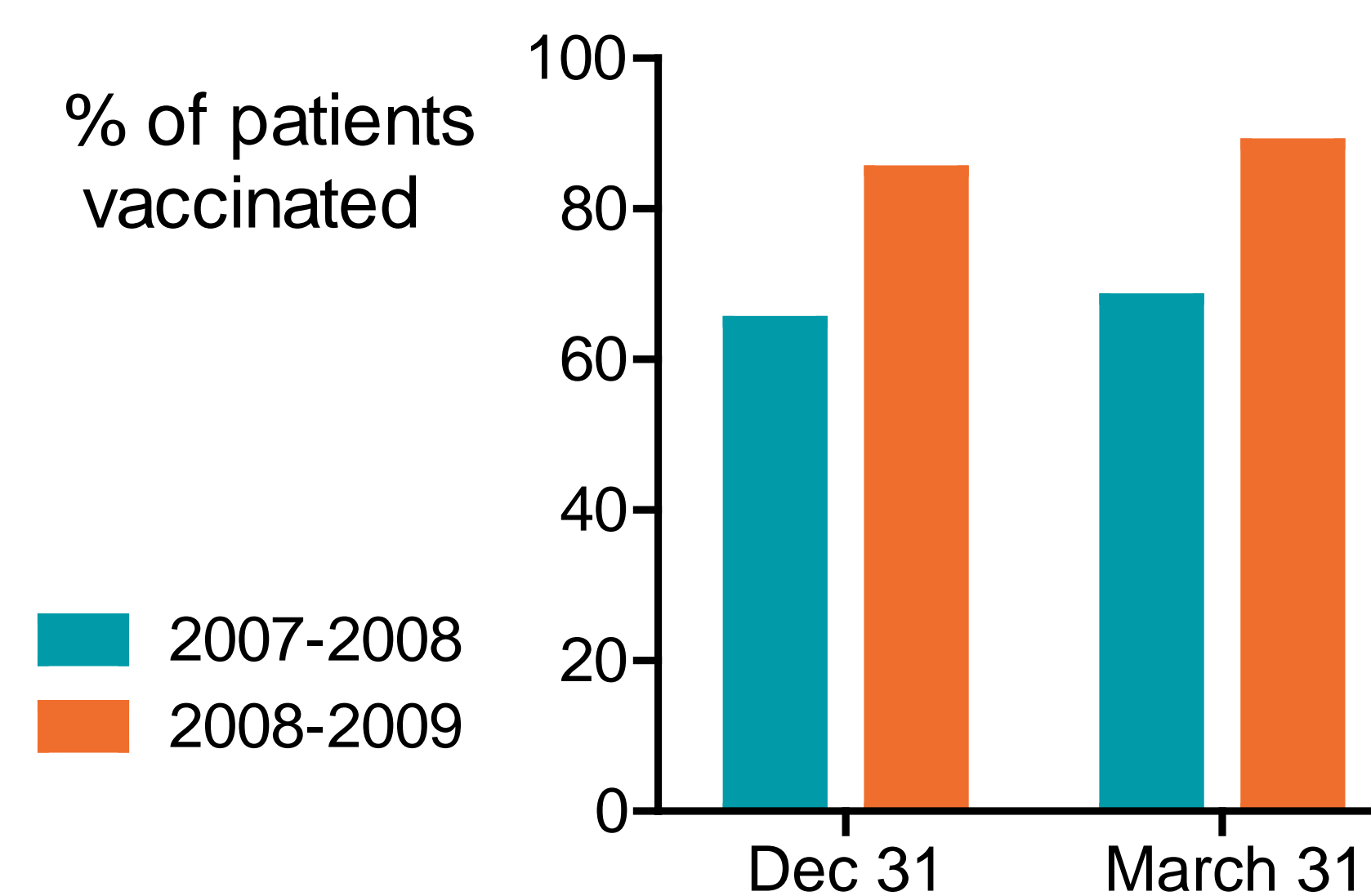


Figure 2. Vaccination Rate by Season



CONCLUSIONS

- The percentage of patients receiving seasonal influenza vaccination rose to 88.6% by the end of the 2008-2009 influenza season (Figure 1).
- This was short of the goal of 90% but a nearly 20-percentage-point improvement compared to the 69% of patients vaccinated during the 2007-2008 season (Figure 2).
- In this program, over 90,000 patients in more than 1400 hemodialysis facilities received vaccination education.

KEY LEARNINGS

Intensive quality management programs can be remarkably successful in achieving high levels of influenza vaccination in large dialysis populations if

- ✓ conducted by the dialysis interdisciplinary care team, including physicians,
- ✓ assisted by timely clinical performance reporting, and
- ✓ relying primarily on education and engagement of both the team and the patient.

We thank the patients who participated in this study and DaVita Clinical Research® (DCR) for support in preparing this poster. DCR is committed to advancing the knowledge and practice of kidney care.



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