




STRATEGY TO INCREASE IMMUNIZATION RATES DURING A PANDEMIC


UTILIZING DENTIST-VACCINATORS

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PROBLEM STATEMENT

- The United States faces the potential scarcity of healthcare workers during natural and man-made emergencies according to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration.
- There is an urgent need in Illinois and the rest of the United States for vaccinators and a rapid, effective immunization model.




H. R. 307 2013

- The Pandemic and All Hazards Reauthorization Act (PAHPRA) created Public law 113-5
- Section 203 includes the potential for dentists to aid in the increase of response capabilities and surge capacity in the event of a public health emergency




ILLINOIS PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 49-409

- Within the framework of the Illinois Dental Practice Act
- Illinois Public Health Act 49-409 indemnifies dentists serving as dental emergency first responders UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
- "acting within the bounds of his/her license when providing care during a declared local, state or national emergency"



ILLINOIS GOOD SAMARITAN LAW SB 751/PA 99-0092

- Illinois licensed dentists who provide flu vaccinations at public health clinics UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, without charge or fees, are granted Good Samaritan immunity from civil liability



OBJECTIVE # 1

- Develop a Dentist-Vaccinator Training model protocol
- Present a previously unpublished data base of Illinois licensed dentists willing to:
- become certified as Dentist-Vaccinators and
- volunteer for a mass immunization during a pandemic or terrorist event will be presented and discussed

OBJECTIVE #2

- Devise a training model program for Illinois licensed dentists that wished to be certified by the Illinois Department of Public Health
- Training would consist of one hour didactic and one hour clinical practicum
- Proposed didactic training would be available at the IDPH internet site
- Proposed clinical practicum training would be overseen by the IDPH & the Medical Reserve Corps

OBJECTIVE #3

- Recommendations for education, training and certification of Illinois licensed dentists wishing to become Dentist-Vaccinators
- Medical Reserve Corps and role of Dentist-Vaccinators

LITERATURE REVIEW

- Pertinent research papers and websites reviewed
- Addressed immunization, preparedness and expanding the medical response team to include other trained professionals.
- Legislation & legal concerns were investigated

RESEARCH REGARDING ILLINOIS DENTIST WILLINGNESS TO VOLUNTEER

- Unpublished University Of Chicago capstone research data from Edmerson, V., Gibson, C. and McCallum, M., 2014.
- Utilized electronic Qualtrics Survey Services
- Services distributed to 1,631 Illinois licensed dentists located through public records
- March 2014-April 2014
- 772 of 1,631 e-mails were opened

RESEARCH REGARDING ILLINOIS DENTIST WILLINGNESS TO VOLUNTEER-cont.

- 96 Illinois Licensed Dentists completed the survey
- Response rate was 13% (96/772)
- Analysis of survey showed 96% were "very willing" to "somewhat willing" to volunteer if they received training
- 48% (46/93) were willing to help during a pandemic. Every respondent was willing to assist in some fashion

DENTIST-VACCINATOR CERTIFICATION PROTOCOL

- Illinois dental license in good standing
- BLS or CPR certification
- Complete IDPH accredited Dentist-Vaccinator training program
- Recertification required to maintain Dentist-Vaccinator certification every 3 years at time of license renewal

DENTIST-VACCINATOR DIADACTIC TRAINING

- Proposed website link to IDPH's Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases
- Proposed easy-to-follow home study program containing comprehensive information on vaccine-preventable diseases, principles of vaccination, general recommendations on immunization and vaccine safety

DENTIST-VACCINATOR CLINICAL PRACTICUM TRAINING

- Dentist-Vaccinators would receive training at the local level, coordinated by IDPH & the Medical Reserve Corps
- Hands-on-training
- Learn correct procedure to administer subcutaneous & intramuscular injections on ex vivo porcine model
- Learn protocol for management of anaphylactic reactions

INCREASING THE IMMUNIZATION RATE DURING A PANDEMIC/TERROR EVENT

- Utilize dentists-an untapped resource-to increase vaccinator/population ratios during a pandemic/terrorism event
- Dentists have the necessary dexterity & skill sets to rapidly administer vaccinations
- Dentists have the necessary medical knowledge to deal with unexpected reactions
- Dentists have the necessary "people skills" to deal with the population requiring vaccination

VARIATIONS & WEAKNESSES IN CURRENT PUBLISHED LITERATURE

- Currently no actual vaccination clinic research dealing exclusively with dentists
- Just-in-time training methodology replaced by repeated immunization training on a regular basis
- Use of prefilled, color-coded vaccine syringes for adults, adolescents and children based on weight and age

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Institute proposed plan to allow licensed Illinois dentists to become Dentist-Vaccinators
- Present proposed plan to the CDC and DHS
- Present proposed plan to the Illinois State Dental Society and the American Dental Association
- Due to the financial problems Illinois is currently experiencing, seek grants from federal agencies to institute proposed plan

CONCLUSIONS

Dentists have been shown to be willing emergency responders.


Dentists, through federal and state legislation, are allowed and have been indemnified to administer vaccinations during a declared emergency event.

The Medical Reserve Corps is in place to aid with their education and utilization as volunteers

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CONCLUSIONS-cont.

- Currently "the HHS Pandemic Plan for Mass Vaccination is non-executable because it is inadequately resourced and lacks a staffing strategy to fulfill the goal of vaccinating 300 million Americans in 6 months". (Russo, 2012)

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THANK YOU FOR
YOUR ATTENTION!