

The Practicalities of Immunization



Type of Project: Education

Organization: Department of Health and Social Services
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Objectives:

1. To increase the understanding of basic immunology and how vaccines work in the human body.
2. To review the impact of a vaccine program in the epidemiology of pneumococcal disease in the Northwest Territories (NWT).
3. To develop awareness and identify preventative strategies of occupational health risks related to providing immunization programs such as repetitive strain injuries related to multiple vaccine injections.

Target Audience: Healthcare Professionals

Project Summary: A one-day education session will be offered to approximately 50 healthcare professionals from across the NWT who either provide and/or counsel people about vaccines and immunization. The Government of NWT has committed to supporting participant travel to this conference. Participants will gain an understanding of basic immunology, the epidemiology of pneumococcal disease in the NWT and the impact of the new Prevnar® vaccine program. Information from this session will demonstrate the effectiveness of the Prevnar® program, along with the importance of enhanced surveillance for invasive pneumococcal disease.

Health, safety and well-being are important elements for healthcare professionals to consider for themselves. The educational session will also provide a forum for discussion about issues related to vaccine delivery that may be occupational health risks.

An evaluation of the education session will be developed and completed by the participants. This information will be helpful in determining the need for further sessions and may also identify other learning needs.

Planned Completion Date: December 2008

Outcomes:

Over 40 health care providers from all over the region gathered to learn more about basic immunology and how vaccines work; the epidemiology of Pneumococcal Disease in the NWT, Canada, and Circumpolar World; and preventative strategies to reduce occupational health risks related to providing immunization programs. Evaluations from the education day were positive and the education day was well received.