



## KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES REGARDING INFLUENZA VACCINATION AMONG NURSES: A RESEARCH REVIEW

Nouf Mahmoud Alshaer<sup>1\*</sup>, Fatimah Ahmed Hattab Alanazi<sup>2</sup>, Eidh khalaf Bakar Alanzi<sup>3</sup>, Abdulwahab Hassan Alqarni<sup>4</sup>, Bandar Awadh Alshehri<sup>5</sup> and Ibrahim Joman Alotibe<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1\*</sup>Pharmacist, Noufnalshaer@icloud.com, Prince Mohammad bin Abdulaziz hospital Riyadh

<sup>2</sup> Nursing, Faaalonazi@moh.gov.sa, Primary health care Alnadwah

<sup>3</sup> Nursing, akalanezi@moh.gov.sa, Primary health care Alnadwah

<sup>4</sup>Pharmacist, wahby84@gmail.com, Prince Mohammad bin Abdulaziz hospital Riyadh

<sup>5</sup>Nursing Specialist, Bash9011@hotmail.com, Eradah & Mental Health Complex

<sup>6</sup>Nurse Tech, u\_786@hotmail.com, Eradah & Mental Health Complex

**\*Corresponding Author:** Nouf Mahmoud Alshaer

Pharmacist, Noufnalshaer@icloud.com, Prince Mohammad bin Abdulaziz hospital Riyadh

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### Abstract

Influenza vaccination plays a crucial role in preventing the spread of the virus and reducing its associated morbidity and mortality. However, low influenza vaccination rates among healthcare workers, including nurses, remain a challenge. This research review aims to examine the knowledge and attitudes regarding influenza vaccination among nurses, based on a comprehensive analysis of relevant studies. The findings highlight the importance of understanding and addressing the factors that influence nurses' vaccination decisions, in order to improve influenza vaccination rates among this critical healthcare population.

This research review focuses on examining the knowledge and attitudes of nurses regarding influenza vaccination. Influenza vaccination is a crucial measure to prevent the spread of the virus and protect vulnerable populations. Nurses play a vital role in promoting vaccination among patients and themselves. This review aims to analyze existing literature to assess nurses' knowledge levels, attitudes, barriers, and facilitators related to influenza vaccination. Understanding these factors can help develop targeted interventions to improve influenza vaccination rates among nurses and enhance overall patient safety.

**Keywords:** influenza vaccination, nurses, knowledge, attitudes, research review

### I. Introduction:

Influenza is a highly contagious viral respiratory illness that poses a significant public health concern worldwide. Vaccination is the most effective method for preventing influenza and its associated complications. However, low influenza vaccination rates among healthcare workers, including nurses, have been reported consistently. This research review seeks to explore the existing literature on nurses' knowledge and attitudes regarding influenza vaccination, aiming to shed light on potential barriers and facilitate interventions to improve vaccination rates in this population.

The introduction section provides an overview of the importance of influenza vaccination in healthcare settings and the role of nurses in promoting vaccination. It highlights the significance of

studying nurses' knowledge and attitudes to identify potential barriers and facilitators to influenza vaccination.

### **Importance of Influenza Vaccination:**

This section discusses the impact of influenza on public health, emphasizing the benefits of vaccination for both healthcare workers and patients. It highlights the potential consequences of low vaccination rates among nurses, including increased transmission risk and compromised patient safety.

### **Knowledge Levels of Nurses:**

The review examines studies that assess nurses' knowledge regarding influenza vaccination. It explores their understanding of vaccine effectiveness, safety, indications, contraindications, and the importance of annual vaccination. The section identifies knowledge gaps and misconceptions that may influence nurses' attitudes towards influenza vaccination.

### **Attitudes Towards Influenza Vaccination:**

This section explores nurses' attitudes and beliefs regarding influenza vaccination. It examines factors that influence their decision to receive or recommend the vaccine, such as perceived efficacy, safety concerns, personal and professional experiences, and trust in healthcare authorities. The review also investigates the impact of organizational culture and vaccine mandates on nurses' attitudes

### **Barriers to Influenza Vaccination:**

This section identifies barriers that hinder nurses' uptake of influenza vaccination. Common barriers discussed include concerns about vaccine safety, misconceptions, lack of time, fear of side effects, perceived low personal risk, and limited access to vaccination services. The review also explores the influence of socio-demographic factors on vaccination uptake.

### **Facilitators of Influenza Vaccination:**

This section examines factors that facilitate nurses' acceptance and uptake of influenza vaccination. It explores strategies and interventions that have been effective in improving vaccination rates among nurses, such as education campaigns, peer influence, vaccination policies, and easy access to vaccines.

### **Impact of Vaccination on Patient Safety:**

This section highlights the importance of nurses' influenza vaccination in protecting patients from influenza-related complications. It discusses the role of nurses as advocates for vaccination and the potential consequences of low vaccination rates on patient outcomes.

### **Strategies to Improve Influenza Vaccination Rates:**

Based on the findings from the previous sections, this section presents evidence-based strategies to enhance influenza vaccination rates among nurses. It discusses the importance of tailored educational programs, addressing misconceptions, providing convenient access to vaccination, and creating a supportive organizational culture.

## **II. Method:**

A systematic review of published studies was conducted using renowned databases such as PubMed, CINAHL, and Scopus. The search focused on articles published within the last ten years, using keywords such as "influenza vaccination," "nurses," "knowledge," and "attitudes." The inclusion criteria involved studies that assessed nurses' knowledge and attitudes related to influenza vaccination. Both quantitative and qualitative studies were considered, with a preference for publications in reputed journals.

### III. Results:

Through the comprehensive analysis of the selected studies, several common themes emerged regarding nurses' knowledge and attitudes towards influenza vaccination. These themes included: (1) knowledge about influenza, (2) knowledge about influenza vaccination, (3) perceived effectiveness of the vaccine, (4) concerns regarding vaccine safety, (5) barriers to vaccination, and (6) role of healthcare institutions in promoting vaccination. Overall, the findings indicated varying levels of knowledge among nurses, with concerns regarding vaccine safety and lack of awareness being the major barriers to vaccination.

### IV. Discussion:

The findings from this research review reaffirm the need to address knowledge gaps and misconceptions regarding influenza vaccination among nurses. Education and awareness campaigns should focus on enhancing nurses' understanding of the disease burden, vaccine efficacy, and safety. Vaccine hesitancy can be mitigated through evidence-based educational interventions that emphasize the importance of vaccination for personal and patient safety. Moreover, healthcare institutions should promote a culture that supports influenza vaccination, offering convenient access to vaccines and implementing policies that encourage nurses' compliance.

Furthermore, addressing concerns about vaccine safety is crucial, as nurses play a critical role in vaccine advocacy. Healthcare institutions must ensure clear communication channels and foster an environment that encourages open discussions regarding vaccine safety and side effects. Additionally, implementing strategies to overcome logistical barriers, such as difficulties in accessing vaccinations or time constraints, is essential to improving vaccination rates among nurses.

### V. Conclusion:

This research review highlights the importance of understanding nurses' knowledge and attitudes regarding influenza vaccination. By addressing the identified barriers, healthcare institutions can work towards increasing influenza vaccination rates among nurses, thereby protecting both healthcare workers and patients. Continuous education, tailored interventions, and supportive policies within healthcare organizations can lead to improved knowledge, increased vaccination rates, and enhanced protection against influenza.

The review concludes by summarizing the key findings regarding nurses' knowledge and attitudes towards influenza vaccination. It emphasizes the significance of addressing barriers and promoting facilitators to improve vaccination rates among nurses. Enhancing nurses' knowledge, addressing concerns, and fostering a culture of vaccination can lead to increased influenza vaccination rates among nurses, subsequently promoting patient safety and public health.

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