

Community Health Nurses Conference 2010

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Objectives

- Describe the situation at Toronto Public Health during pH1N1 response
- Increase knowledge of Adverse Event Following Immunization (AEFI) and AEFI case definition
- Discuss steps taken to increase nursing capacity and expertise
- Discuss outcomes

Context

- Normal process
- AEFIs during pH1N1 response
- Case definition

Unique Situation

- Critical number of reports
- Expert and novice investigators
- Focused practice
- New vaccine
- Data entry support

Adverse Event Following Immunization

- Any untoward medical occurrence that happens after immunization
- The vaccine may or may not be the cause of the AEFI
- Most AEFIs are mild, although rarely serious ones do occur

Importance of Reporting

- Vaccine safety
- Public confidence
- Legal requirement

The Report

- Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) form
- User guide

Investigating a Report

- Gather information
- Assign case definition (more to follow...)
- Report to the Ministry of Health
- Provincial data forwarded to PHAC for analysis

Case Definition

• Case Classification

- Local reaction
- Anaphylaxis
- Allergic reaction
- Neurologic reaction
- Other defined AEFIs of interest
- Other severe or unusual event

Case Definition (continued)

- Laboratory evidence
- Clinical evidence

Case definition – Challenges

- Time frame
- Missing information
- Interpreting data

Seizing the Opportunity

- Work assignment
- Daily meetings (case conferences)
- Consultations to TPH physicians
- Nursing the clients

Case example

Outcomes

- Increased knowledge about AEFI
- Increased skill and confidence in ability to investigate AEFI
- Developed 'expert' role in the health unit
- Standardized interpretation of case definition
- Increased satisfaction with work in a crisis situation

Questions?

Thank you