

PROMOTING INFLUENZA VACCINATION OF DIABETIC PATIENTS AT PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CENTERS: A NOTE

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Editor, it is no doubt that influenza can cause high morbidity and mortality among diabetic patients. Influenza vaccination is recommended for diabetic patients. However, influenza vaccination is not a routinely administered vaccine in many countries including Thailand (1). Considering the recent outbreak of swine flu, new governmental policies for free influenza vaccination of diabetic patients at primary health care centers is presently used. It is a useful policy since the rate of diabetic patients that receive influenza vaccination is very low. For example, the reported rates of vaccination among diabetic patients attending many local primary health care centers in Bangkok are equal to 0%, reflecting the possible null or very low rate in the rural areas of Thailand (1). Although the classic influenza vaccination of diabetic patients cannot prevent the new influenza infection, it will prevent classic influenza that might emerge in the same period.

REFERENCE

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