

## **INFLUENZA VACCINE COVERAGE RATES AMONG POLISH PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC DISEASES**

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**Background.** Patients at a high risk of severe influenza, because of their underlying health disorders are recommended to receive a seasonal influenza vaccination. In Poland the influenza coverage rate at the general population is very low (3,4%), while there is very little known about coverage rates among patients from clinical risk groups.

**The aim** of our study was to describe a general knowledge, perception and influenza vaccination coverage rates among Polish patients who belong to risk groups.

**Material and methods.** We conducted a self - fulfilled, anonymous survey among 500 patients with chronic disorders: bronchial asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (120 patients), chronic renal insufficiency required hemodialysis (80 patients), thyroid cancer required treatment with a radioactive iodine (100 patients), cardiovascular disease, including cardiac insufficiency, myocardial infarction in the past, ischemic heart disease (200 patients). **Results.** Influenza vaccine coverage rates among patients with chronic diseases were: 36% among patients with chronic renal insufficiency, 9% among patients with thyroid cancer, 58% patients with respiratory tract diseases, 30% among patients with cardiovascular disorders.

**Conclusions.** Although influenza vaccine coverage rates among Polish patients with chronic diseases are higher than reported at the general population, they still require improvement.