

FACTORS INFLUENCING HEALTH AWARENESS OF INFLUENZA PROPHYLAXIS IN PATIENTS HOSPITALIZED AT THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

Ewa Szymczuk¹, [Agnieszka Woźniak-Kosek](#)²

¹ Emergency Department, Military Institute of Medicine, Szaserów Str. 128, 04-141 Warsaw, Poland

² Department of Laboratory Diagnostics , Military Institute of Medicine, Szaserów 128, 04-141 Warsaw, Poland

Many people are not aware of the threat posed by the influenza virus. Influenza is an acute viral respiratory disease common among both adults and children, what is related to increasing number of medical visits, hundreds of thousands of unplanned hospitalizations and thousand deaths of patients all over the world. In Poland 150 persons died in the epidemiological season 2018/2019 (that was above 3 times higher than in the similar period of the last season 2017/2018). The most effective method of influenza prevention and avoiding its complications are the annual vaccinations. The aim of this study was to examine the views and level of knowledge about influenza vaccinations among patients hospitalized at the Emergency Department, Military Institute of Medicine in Poland. The study group consisted of 507 subjects. The questionnaire consisted of 15 single-choice questions. Only about 11 % of the patients were willing to be vaccinated. The analysis of the study data show that the respondents use this form of prevention very rarely. The patients possessed only a piece of general knowledge and limited awareness of influenza threats. As a result, they do not take preventive actions and proper treatment in the event of the infection.