



Title	Brief Education to Promote Maternal Influenza Vaccine Uptake: A Randomized Controlled Trial
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Brief Education to Promote Maternal Influenza Vaccine Uptake: A Randomized Controlled Trial

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1 1. Introduction

2 Pregnant women have higher rates of influenza-related hospitalizations [1], complications [2,
3 3], and mortality [2, 4] during pandemic and non-pandemic years. Influenza vaccination is
4 beneficial and safe for pregnant women throughout pregnancy [5-8] and provides protection
5 for the newborn in the first 6 months of life [9]. Although the World Health Organization
6 (WHO) has identified pregnant women as having highest priority for seasonal influenza
7 vaccination [10], maternal influenza vaccination rates are often lower than in other high-risk
8 groups and the general population [11-13]. A recent review of influenza vaccination rates in
9 pregnant women across 11 countries found vaccination rates ranged from 1.7%–88%, but
10 were most often less than 50% [14].

11 Pregnant women who have more knowledge about the potential complications of
12 influenza and the safety of the influenza vaccine are more likely to be vaccinated [15-17]. To
13 date, the majority of interventions aimed at improving maternal influenza vaccination rates
14 have targeted healthcare providers, primarily obstetricians, and encouraged them to discuss
15 influenza vaccination with pregnant women [18-22]. Among pregnant woman-focused
16 interventions, one trial showed that an education pamphlet, with or without a verbalized
17 benefits statement, increased vaccination rates [23]. In other studies, one found that 5 weekly
18 text messages to pregnant women about the importance of maternal influenza vaccination
19 significantly increased vaccine uptake [24] while another found that 12 weekly text messages
20 had no effect on maternal vaccination rates [25]. Chamberlain et al. [26] found that a multi-
21 component vaccination promotion intervention consisting of provider to patient education,
22 educational brochures, and an electronic patient-centred tutorial did not improve vaccine
23 uptake. Frew et al. [27] evaluated the effect of two types of vaccination messages (i.e.,
24 information about the benefits of vaccination vs. information about the risks of not
25 vaccinating) and found that neither of the two message types significantly improved
26 vaccination uptake.

27 The low rate of vaccine uptake in this target group and the conflicting evidence from
28 evaluated interventions indicate a need to further develop interventions to improve maternal
29 influenza vaccine rates. Although the Hong Kong government has endorsed the WHO
30 recommendation for prioritizing pregnant women in seasonal and pandemic influenza
31 vaccination programs, there is no free or subsidized vaccination program for this target group
32 and publicly-funded antenatal clinics do not provide influenza vaccination as part of routine
33 care to pregnant women. Pregnant women must get vaccinated in private clinics, primarily
34 general practice clinics dispersed throughout the city. In public antenatal clinics, pregnant
35 women do not have a dedicated provider and at each visit are assessed by a midwife or
36 physician, depending on their stage of pregnancy and any complicating conditions. Thus,
37 provider-focused interventions would likely be ineffective in such settings and interventions
38 targeting pregnant women may be more appropriate to improve influenza vaccination
39 coverage. The objective of the present study was to assess the effect of a brief education
40 intervention targeting pregnant women on the uptake of influenza vaccination.

41

42 **2. Materials and Methods**

43 *2.1 Design, setting, and participants*

44 We designed a randomized controlled trial to evaluate the efficacy of a brief, one-to-one
45 education session on the influenza vaccination rate during pregnancy and the proportion of
46 participants seeking out influenza vaccination. A more detailed study protocol is reported
47 elsewhere [28]. During two consecutive influenza seasons (2013-14 and 2014-15), pregnant
48 women attending the antenatal clinics at four geographically-dispersed public hospitals in
49 Hong Kong were screened for eligibility and recruited into the study by a research nurse.
50 These hospitals were selected based on geographical representativeness and the large
51 populations of eligible pregnant women from a wide range of socioeconomic backgrounds
52 they served. Hong Kong has eight public and ten private hospitals that offer obstetric services.

53 Public health care, including high-quality antenatal, postnatal and well-child health care, is
54 available free of charge to all Hong Kong residents. Private health care is available on a fee
55 for service basis. In 2011, two-thirds of all Hong Kong women gave birth in public hospitals
56 [29]. Although women giving birth in private hospitals are usually of higher socioeconomic
57 status, many high-income families chose to access public maternity services because it is free,
58 high quality and comprehensive.

59 Inclusion criteria were pregnant women: (a) with a singleton pregnancy; (b) at least 18
60 years of age; (c) in at least the second trimester of pregnancy; (d) who spoke Cantonese; (e)
61 were Hong Kong residents; (f) without serious medical conditions (i.e., cancers, rheumatoid
62 arthritis, major psychiatric illnesses) or obstetrical complications (i.e., full placenta previa or
63 diagnosed birth defects); (g) who had not yet received the influenza vaccination during this
64 pregnancy; and (h) who would be staying in Hong Kong for at least 2 weeks after birth. Non-
65 residents who are not entitled to health benefits in Hong Kong were excluded. Although
66 influenza vaccine is safe in any trimester of pregnancy, we recruited pregnant women after
67 the first trimester to avoid any perceived association between vaccination and early pregnancy
68 complications.

69

70 2.2 Randomization and concealment

71 Participating pregnant women were randomized into either a standard care group or an
72 intervention group at a 1:1 ratio, using block randomization with random block sizes of 2–8.
73 An independent researcher who did not participate in the study generated an allocation
74 sequence using Stata 13.1 statistical software (StataCorp 2013, *Stata Statistical Software:
75 Release 13*, College Station, TX; StataCorp LP). Treatment assignments were placed in
76 sequentially numbered, sealed, opaque envelopes. The research nurse selected the next
77 envelope in the sequence to determine treatment allocation, after the eligible pregnant women

78 were given information about the study and had signed a written consent form. Blinding of
79 the research nurse and participants was not possible given the nature of the intervention.

80

81 *2.3 Intervention*

82 Standard antenatal care consists of routine checking of maternal and fetal health by either
83 obstetricians or midwives, along with health education to promote a healthy pregnancy.

84 **Childbirth preparation classes were available to all women attending the clinics for no**

85 **additional cost.** Recommendations and education about influenza vaccination in pregnancy

86 are not normally included in routine antenatal care. However, participants allocated to the

87 standard care group were provided with an education pamphlet on influenza vaccination in

88 pregnancy, developed by the Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection (CHP) [30] and freely

89 available in the antenatal clinics during the study.

90 The intervention group received standard care plus brief one-to-one education lasting

91 10 minutes that focused on four key recommendations identified from the literature: (i)

92 informing the participants about vaccination recommendations; (ii) encouraging them to

93 discuss vaccination with their **antenatal care provider or general practitioner (GP)**; (iii)

94 increasing accessibility of the vaccine by referral to clinics where vaccination could be

95 obtained; and (iv) providing **influenza-related** information from the official government

96 website and the website uniform resource locator [14]. Specifically, participants in the

97 intervention group were informed about: (i) the WHO [10] and Hong Kong CHP

98 recommendations [31] regarding influenza vaccine during pregnancy; (ii) potential

99 complications associated with influenza infection during pregnancy and for young infants;

100 (iii) the safety of influenza vaccination for pregnant women; (iv) potential benefits of

101 influenza vaccination for pregnant women and infants; and (v) where and how to get the

102 influenza vaccination in Hong Kong. **Almost all participants had a personal GP who provided**

103 influenza vaccine and for the few that did not, we provided information on nearby clinics that
104 could provide vaccination.

105 Immediately after randomization, the intervention was delivered in a private room in
106 the antenatal clinics so that participants in the standard care group were unable to overhear the
107 education intervention and to ensure that all participants were unaware of the intervention
108 other participants received. A digital flip chart was used to present the education content and
109 participants were encouraged to express concerns and ask questions. To ensure consistency of
110 intervention delivery, one research nurse carried out the education intervention across the four
111 sites.

112

113 2.4 Data collection

114 All participants completed a standard baseline questionnaire collecting: (i) key background
115 data (i.e., age, marital status, education level, family income, and employment status); (ii)
116 maternal health status (i.e., pre-existing health conditions, pregnancy-related health problems,
117 gravidity and parity, and expected date of confinement); and (iii) influenza and influenza
118 vaccine knowledge. Participants were subsequently followed up by telephone at 2–3 weeks
119 after their expected delivery date by a study research assistant who had not been involved in
120 participant recruitment and was blinded to participants' treatment allocation. During the
121 follow-up telephone interviews, participants reported their influenza vaccination status during
122 the pregnancy, reasons for receiving or not receiving influenza vaccination, discussion of
123 influenza vaccination with antenatal care providers or GPs, attempts to receive the
124 vaccination (i.e., participant went to their GP and requested the vaccine but were unable to
125 receive it), and anti-vaccination advice from any healthcare professional.

126

127 *2.5 Outcome measures*

128 The primary study outcome was the self-reported influenza vaccination rate during pregnancy.
129 The secondary outcomes were the proportion of participants who initiated discussion about
130 influenza vaccination with a healthcare professional and the proportion of participants who
131 attempted to get vaccinated.

132

133 *2.6 Sample size calculation*

134 Previous Hong Kong studies showed that seasonal influenza vaccination uptake among
135 pregnant women ranged from 1.7%–5% [15, 32, 33]. Other studies also showed that in
136 pregnant woman-focused interventions, the risk difference of influenza vaccination uptake
137 among pregnant women before and after implementing the intervention ranged from 2% to
138 39% [23-25, 27]. Therefore, an estimate of the “normal” influenza vaccination uptake rate
139 among pregnant women in Hong Kong would be 5.0%, and an increase to 20% would be
140 conservative but clinically meaningful. With a power of 0.80 and significance level of 0.05
141 and using a chi-square test in the G-power statistical analysis program [34], we calculated that
142 76 participants would be required for each group (152 participants in total). After accounting
143 for a loss to follow-up and dropout rate of around 20%, approximately 92 participants per
144 group were required, giving a total of 184 participants.

145

146 *2.7 Data analysis*

147 Baseline sociodemographic characteristics of the two groups were compared using a χ^2 test or
148 a Fisher’s Exact Test for categorical variables and Student’s t-test for continuous variables.
149 The proportion of participants in the two study groups who received influenza vaccination
150 during pregnancy was compared using χ^2 tests. We further computed the odds ratios of
151 vaccination using logistic regression, while adjusting for one baseline variable that was
152 significantly different between the two groups. The intention-to-treat principle was used, with

153 missing values taken as no vaccination while the per-protocol analysis, with missing values
154 removed, was reported as a comparison. We used χ^2 tests to compare the proportion of
155 participants in the two groups who discussed influenza vaccination with a healthcare
156 professional and the proportion of participants who attempted to receive influenza vaccination.
157 Each estimate was accompanied by a 95% confidence interval (CI); a 5% level of significance
158 was considered statistically significant in all statistical tests. Data analyses were performed
159 using Stata statistical software (StataCorp 2015, *Stata Statistical Software: Release 14.1*,
160 College Station, TX; StataCorp LP) [35].

161

162 *2.8 Ethical approval*

163 Ethical approval for the study was obtained from: (1) the Institutional Review Board of the
164 University of Hong Kong/ Hospital Authority Hong Kong West Cluster; (2) the Kowloon
165 West Cluster Research Ethics Committee (KWC-REC); and (3) the Ethics Committee of
166 Hong Kong East Cluster (EC-HKEC). Informed written consent was obtained from all study
167 participants before any personal data were collected and the intervention delivered. The
168 research nurse informed each eligible pregnant woman about the purpose and nature of the
169 study, the potential benefits and risks of participation, and their right to refuse to participate or
170 withdraw at any time during the study without affecting the antenatal care they received.

171

172 **3. Results**

173 Data were collected from October 7, 2013, to February 4, 2014 (Year 1), and from October 20,
174 2014, to December 23, 2014 (Year 2) (Figure 1). Data collection was interrupted in the first
175 year when several cases of H7N9 avian influenza were admitted to Hong Kong public
176 hospitals. Because of the raised influenza threat level, non-essential clinical duties were
177 suspended in all public hospitals from December 7, 2013, through January 19, 2014.

178 Therefore, to achieve the required sample size, recruitment was resumed in the next influenza
179 season. In total, 489 pregnant women were assessed for eligibility across all sites (Figure 1).
180 Of these, 6% (n=29) did not meet the eligibility criteria, and 29% (n=140) declined to
181 participate. Of the 321 who consented to participate, 160 were randomized to the standard
182 care group and 161 to the intervention group; 305 (95%) participants completed follow-up.
183 Nine participants were lost to follow-up, and seven were contacted but refused to complete
184 follow-up. The treatment fidelity rate was 100%, because the intervention was delivered
185 immediately after randomization.

186 An overview of participants' characteristics is presented in Table 1. The two groups
187 were similar, except for a significantly higher proportion of participants with a pre-existing
188 chronic illness in the intervention group (p=0.006). The reported pre-existing chronic illnesses
189 were Hepatitis B carrier status (n=14), respiratory disease (n=6), thyroid disease (n=6), and
190 others (n=13). The influenza vaccination rate for all participants was 15.6% (n=50) with a
191 higher proportion of vaccinated participants in the intervention group (21.1%, n=34) than the
192 standard care group (10%, n=16) (risk difference [RD] 11.1; 95% CI 3.3–19.0; p=0.006) (see
193 Table 2). The number needed to treat was 9 (95% CI 5.3–30.4). After excluding those lost to
194 follow-up, 22.5% (n=34) of participants in the intervention group received vaccination
195 compared with 10.4% (n=16) in the standard care group (RD 12.1%; 95% CI 3.9–20.3;
196 p=0.004). The logistic regression analysis showed that after adjusting for pre-existing chronic
197 disease status, the intervention group was still significantly more likely to be vaccinated in the
198 intention-to-treat analysis (odds ratio [OR] 2.45; 95% CI 1.28–4.68; p=0.007) and the per-
199 protocol analysis (OR 2.52; 95% CI 1.32–4.82; p=0.005). There were no substantive
200 differences in the vaccination uptake rates of participants between the two study years (see
201 Supplementary Table).

202 The proportion of participants who initiated discussion about influenza vaccination
203 with a healthcare professional was higher among participants in the intervention group

204 (19.9%; n=32) than in the standard care group (13.1%; n=21), but the difference was not
205 statistically significant (p=0.10). Of participants who did not receive influenza vaccination
206 during pregnancy (n=271), 45 reported that they had attempted to get vaccinated. A
207 significantly higher proportion of participants who attempted to get vaccinated were in the
208 intervention group (82.2%; n=37) than in the standard care group (17.8%; n=8) (p<0.001). If
209 participants who made the attempt had received the vaccination, the vaccination rate would
210 have been 44.1% (n=71) in the intervention group and 15% (n=24) in the standard care group
211 (RD 29.1%, 95% CI 19.6%–38.6%, p<0.001) (Table 3). At baseline, only 6.2% (n=20) of
212 participants reported that a healthcare professional had discussed influenza vaccination with
213 them. At follow-up, 8.5% (n=26) of participants reported that they were advised against
214 influenza vaccine by a healthcare professional, which included obstetricians (n=11), general
215 practitioners (n=8), and nurses (n=7).

216

217 **4.0 Discussion**

218 The results of this study show that a brief, one-to-one education intervention for pregnant
219 women significantly increased maternal influenza vaccination. However, the vaccination rate
220 in the intervention group (21.1%) was still substantially below the Healthy People 2020 target
221 vaccination rate of 80% [36]. This may be because other supportive vaccination practices (e.g.,
222 on-site vaccine availability and positive recommendations from their obstetric healthcare
223 provider) were not in place. Pregnant women needed to obtain the vaccination from a private
224 provider, which increased vaccination barriers. In obstetric settings where vaccination is
225 readily available however, the effectiveness of brief education may be greater as the barriers
226 that exist in our setting would be removed. Furthermore, when our participants did attempt to
227 get vaccinated, many were advised against vaccination by a healthcare professional or were
228 unable to receive the vaccine. If these participants had received vaccination, the vaccination
229 rate in the intervention group would have been approximately twice as high.

230 The relationship between healthcare professionals, pregnant women and influenza
231 vaccination is complex. Studies show that doctors and nurses frequently recommend
232 influenza vaccination to elderly or chronically ill clients or people perceived to be at highest
233 risk from influenza morbidity and mortality [37-39]. However, healthcare professionals are
234 less likely to recommend vaccination for young healthy populations [40-42]. Furthermore,
235 rates of influenza vaccination among healthcare professionals, an identified risk group, are
236 consistently low [43-45]. Studies of US obstetric healthcare providers have found that over
237 85% report that they routinely recommend influenza vaccine to their pregnant patients [20, 46,
238 47]. Other studies however, suggest that many obstetric healthcare providers are unaware of
239 vaccine recommendations for pregnant women and even if aware, are reluctant to recommend
240 vaccination [40, 42, 48, 49]. In addition, surveys of pregnant women have found that only 7–
241 40% report receiving such a recommendation [32, 33, 50-52]. Although pregnant women who
242 receive a vaccination recommendation from their healthcare provider are substantially more
243 likely to receive influenza vaccination [14], only 30–70% of pregnant women receiving the
244 recommendation get vaccinated [33, 50-52]. This suggests that even with knowledge of the
245 benefits of vaccination, many pregnant women remain reluctant to get vaccinated. This
246 reluctance is likely due to an long-held belief system that pregnant women should minimize
247 exposing the fetus to any unknown or potentially adverse substances [46], especially those
248 injected into the body. Evidence has shown that interventions targeting healthcare
249 professionals improved maternal influenza vaccination rates [18, 21, 53]. In our study a nurse
250 delivered the education intervention and recommended the vaccination to participants, and
251 although vaccine uptake was significantly improved, rates were still suboptimal. Pregnant
252 women may be more willing to follow recommendations from their regular GP or obstetric
253 healthcare provider but some women may still be reticent to receive the vaccination during
254 pregnancy [54]. In addition to maternal education, enthusiastic vaccination recommendations,

255 and on-site vaccine access, vaccine promotion through mass media and social media may help
256 to further overcome these barriers [46].

257 In this study the vaccination coverage in the standard care group (~10%) was
258 somewhat higher than in previous Hong Kong studies among pregnant women, where rates
259 ranged from 1.7–6.2% [15, 32, 33]. The influenza vaccination pamphlet provided to
260 participants in the standard care group was widely available in antenatal clinics. However, it
261 is not given directly to pregnant women, and it is likely that few read the pamphlet. Therefore,
262 it is possible that simply being given the influenza vaccination pamphlet by a nurse increased
263 the women's risk perceptions and perceived importance of vaccination. Other studies have
264 shown significant increases in maternal influenza vaccination coverage following the
265 distribution of education pamphlets by **healthcare professionals** [23, 55]. In addition, pregnant
266 women may perceive healthcare staff-delivered information as more personally relevant and
267 important [56]. Although the effect may be small, actively distributing pamphlets is a simple
268 action, easily implemented in clinical settings at a minimal cost.

269

270 *4.1 Strengths and limitations*

271 This study provides high-quality evidence of the effectiveness of brief education in improving
272 maternal influenza vaccination rates. First, random allocation and allocation concealment
273 minimized treatment assignment bias. Second, there was a high participation rate. This might
274 have been because the study involved only a brief onsite intervention, requiring less than 10
275 minutes of participants' time, and a short follow-up telephone interview. Evidence shows that
276 people are more likely to participate in studies with a low participation burden such as in-
277 person or telephone interviews [57]. Third, as the intervention was delivered immediately
278 after randomization, we achieved 100% treatment fidelity. Finally, the loss to follow-up rate
279 was <5%, meaning the risk of attrition bias was minimal.

280 This study also has some limitations that need to be considered when interpreting the
281 findings. First, participants were recruited from the antenatal clinics at four public hospitals;
282 therefore, the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics might not be representative of
283 all pregnant women in Hong Kong. When compared with the 2014 Hong Kong female
284 population from 20-49 years of age, our sample had fewer participants in the lowest education
285 category (7.2% vs. 17.9%) and more participants in the higher education category (42.4% vs.
286 30.7%) [58]. Second, the higher-than-expected vaccination rate in the standard care group
287 might indicate that study participants were more receptive to the influenza vaccination
288 information than other pregnant women. As the study information sheet, the consent form,
289 and the education pamphlet all identified that the study was on influenza vaccination, the
290 standard care group may have also received some priming regarding the importance of
291 influenza vaccine in pregnancy. Third, although we took measures to minimize potential
292 contamination between the two treatment groups, we did not assess whether there was
293 contamination or sharing of information between the participants. Fourth, the H7N9 avian
294 influenza outbreak may also explain the higher-than-expected vaccination rate in the standard
295 care group. However, outbreaks of avian influenza are not uncommon in Hong Kong [59] and
296 these outbreaks have had minimal impact on influenza vaccination rates in various population
297 and at risk groups [60, 61]. Fifth, it is also possible, as the assessment of the primary outcome
298 relied on self-reported data, reporting or recall bias may have affected the study results. It was
299 not possible to verify participants' vaccination status as most primary care providers work in
300 solo practices that do not have centralized vaccination reporting systems. However, existing
301 studies have shown that recall of vaccination status is accurate, and maternal recall is
302 particularly reliable for pregnancy-related events [62-64]. In addition, the unavailability of
303 influenza vaccine in the antenatal clinics may have limited the effect of antenatal education as
304 other barriers such as employment or lack of childcare may have prevented pregnant women
305 from being vaccinated. Finally, due to the nature of the intervention, participants and the

306 research nurse could not be blinded to the treatment allocation and this may have biased the
307 study in some unmeasurable way.

308

309 *4.2 Conclusion*

310 Although our study supports the effectiveness of brief education in improving maternal
311 influenza vaccination rates, coverage remained low. It is possible that in populations with
312 higher baseline vaccination rates, brief education may be sufficient to achieve target
313 vaccination rates. However, in populations such as Hong Kong, where baseline vaccination
314 rates are low, multi-component interventions are likely required. In addition to education
315 about influenza vaccination, other supportive practices such as a direct healthcare professional
316 recommendation, onsite vaccination, and promotion campaigns that specifically address
317 maternal concerns and fears about vaccination may need to be implemented to reduce barriers
318 and achieve optimal vaccination coverage.

319

320 Full text of the trial protocol is available at www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2393/14/19 [28].

321

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325

326 **Conflict of Interest Statement**

327 The authors have no potential conflicts of interest to report.

328

329 **Acknowledgement**

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331 follow-up.

332 **Figure Caption**

333 Figure 1: Flow diagram of participants through each stage of the study

334

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Table 1. Baseline Characteristics of Participants by Intervention Group

Demographic variable	Standard care (n=160), No. (%)	Intervention (n=161), No. (%)	Total (n=321)	P
Maternal age, year M(SD)	33.8 ± 4.3	33.2 ± 4.0	33.5 ± 4.2	.21
Parity				
0	99 (61.9)	92 (57.1)	191 (59.5)	.69
1	53 (33.1)	60 (37.3)	113 (35.2)	
≥2	8 (5.0)	9 (5.6)	17 (5.3)	
Maternal education				
Compulsory secondary or below	12 (7.5)	11 (6.8)	23 (7.2)	.21
Upper secondary	64 (40.0)	68 (42.2)	53 (41.1)	
Some post-secondary	10 (6.3)	20 (12.4)	30 (9.4)	
University degree or above	74 (46.3)	62 (38.5)	136 (42.4)	
Place of birth				
Hong Kong SAR	116 (72.5)	112 (69.6)	228 (71.0)	.71
Mainland China	41 (25.6)	47 (29.2)	88 (27.4)	
Others	3 (1.9)	2 (1.2)	5 (1.6)	
Length of residency in Hong Kong				
<10 years	20 (12.5)	21 (13.0)	41 (12.8)	.75
10-15 years	26 (16.3)	31 (19.3)	57 (17.8)	
Since birth	114 (71.3)	109 (67.7)	223 (69.5)	
Family income ¹				
Below median	44 (27.5)	49 (30.4)	93 (29.0)	.56
Above median	116 (72.5)	112 (69.6)	228 (71.0)	
Smoked during pregnancy				
No	158 (98.8)	157 (97.5)	315 (98.1)	.69
Yes	2 (1.3)	4 (2.5)	6 (1.9)	
Pre-existing chronic illness				
No	149 (93.1)	134 (83.2)	283 (88.2)	.006
Yes	11 (6.9)	27 (16.8)	38 (11.8)	
Types: (some participants had >1 illness)				--
Hepatitis B carrier status	3 (27.3)	11 (40.7)	14 (36.8)	
Respiratory disease	1 (9.1)	5 (18.5)	6 (15.8)	
Thyroid disease	1 (9.1)	5 (18.5)	6 (15.8)	
Others	6 (54.5)	7 (25.9)	13 (34.2)	
Pregnancy related health problem				
No	125 (78.1)	126 (78.3)	251 (78.2)	.98
Yes	35 (21.9)	35 (21.7)	70 (21.8)	
Types: (some participants had >1 health problem)				--
Gestational diabetes	13 (37.1)	19 (54.3)	32 (45.7)	
Anaemia	15 (42.9)	13 (37.1)	28 (40.0)	
Hypertension	2 (5.7)	4 (11.4)	6 (8.6)	
Others	5 (14.3)	2 (5.7)	7 (10.0)	

¹Median household income in HK in 2011 was \$20,000 to \$24,999 HKD per month (1USD=7.7HKD)

Table 2. Observed Influenza Vaccine Uptake During Pregnancy by Treatment Group¹

	Treatment group, n (%)		RD, % (95% CI)	<i>P</i>
	Standard care	Intervention		
Intention-to-treat analysis ²				
Vaccinated	16 (10.0)	34 (21.1)		
Non-vaccinated	144 (90.0)	127 (78.9)	11.1 (3.3–19.0)	0.006
Per-protocol analysis ³				
Vaccinated	16 (10.4)	34 (22.5)		
Non-vaccinated	138 (89.6)	117 (77.5)	12.1 (3.9–20.3)	0.004

RD=Risk Difference; CI=Confidence Interval

¹The actual influenza vaccine uptake rate among pregnant women²In the standard care group, n=160. In the intervention group, n=161.³In the standard care group, n=154. In the intervention group, n=151

Table 3. Expected Influenza Vaccine Uptake During Pregnancy by Treatment Groups¹

	Treatment group, n (%)		RD, % (95% CI)	<i>P</i>
	Standard care	Intervention		
Intention-to-treat analysis ²				
Vaccinated	24 (15.0)	71 (44.1)		
Non-vaccinated	136 (85.0)	90 (55.9)	29.1 (19.6–38.6)	<0.001
Per-protocol analysis ³				
Vaccinated	24 (15.6)	71 (47.0)		
Non-vaccinated	130 (84.4)	80 (53.0)	31.4 (21.6–41.2)	<0.001

RD=Risk Difference; CI=Confidence Interval

¹The estimated influenza vaccination rate if participants who attempted to be vaccinated had received the vaccine

²In the standard care group, n=160. In the intervention group, n=161.

³In the standard care group, n=154. In the intervention group, n=151

