

IMPLEMENTING A VACCINE SCREENING PROTOCOL FOR SPECIALTY DISEASE MODIFYING ANTI-RHEUMATIC DRUGS (DMARDS) IN AN INTEGRATED OUTPATIENT RHEUMATOLOGY CLINIC



Laura Petry, PharmD | Marci Saknini, PharmD, CSP | Bridget Lynch, PharmD, MD | Autumn Zuckerman, PharmD, BCPS, AAHIVP, CSP | Kristen Whelchel, PharmD, CSP

BACKGROUND

- Specialty DMARDs used in rheumatic diseases cause immunosuppression and have specific vaccine recommendations.
- Creating a standardized vaccine screening processes encourages consistent review of vaccine eligibility.

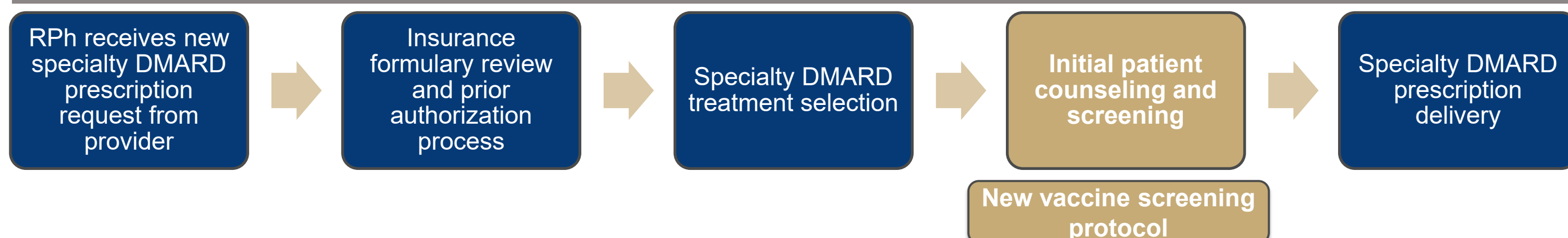
OBJECTIVE

- Ensure delivery of proper vaccine recommendations through implementation and evaluation of a standardized vaccine screening process in rheumatology patients.

METHODS

Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outpatient rheumatology office with imbedded health-system specialty pharmacists at an academic medical center
Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality improvement project that created an electronic health record (EHR) form embedded in standardized, drug-specific counseling notes for specialty pharmacists to document vaccine recommendations made during counseling sessions for patients starting new specialty DMARDs. • Current vaccine recommendations were summarized and provided to pharmacists as a condensed written resource.
Inclusion Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients prescribed a new specialty DMARD by a Vanderbilt Cool Springs Rheumatology provider and receiving counseling by an integrated specialty pharmacist between 09/01/2021 and 10/29/21.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of eligible patients screened for vaccines • Number and type of vaccines recommended • Pharmacist-reported efficiency of screening protocol

FIGURE 1. IMPLEMENTATION IN WORKFLOW



RESULTS

FIGURE 2. EHR VACCINE SCREENING FORM

Clinical screenings reviewed: Immunization Record Hepatitis B TB

Patient received vaccine counseling: Yes No

Immunization recommended: pneumonia influenza zoster none

FIGURE 3. COUNSELING NOTE TEXT

Vaccine and ID Assessment:
Clinical screenings reviewed: **Immunization Record, Hepatitis B and TB**
Patient received vaccine counseling: **Yes**
Immunization recommended: **pneumonia, influenza and zoster**

FIGURE 4. SCREENED PATIENTS

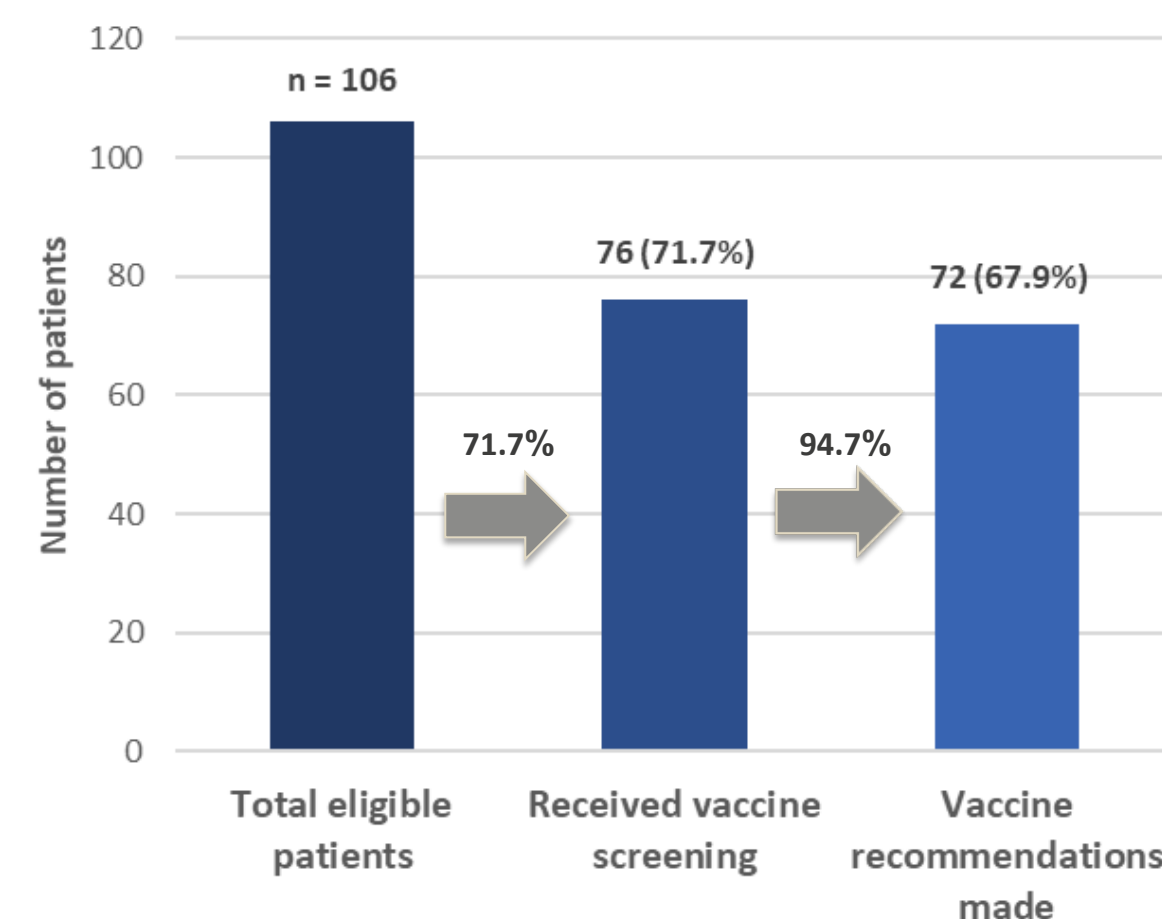
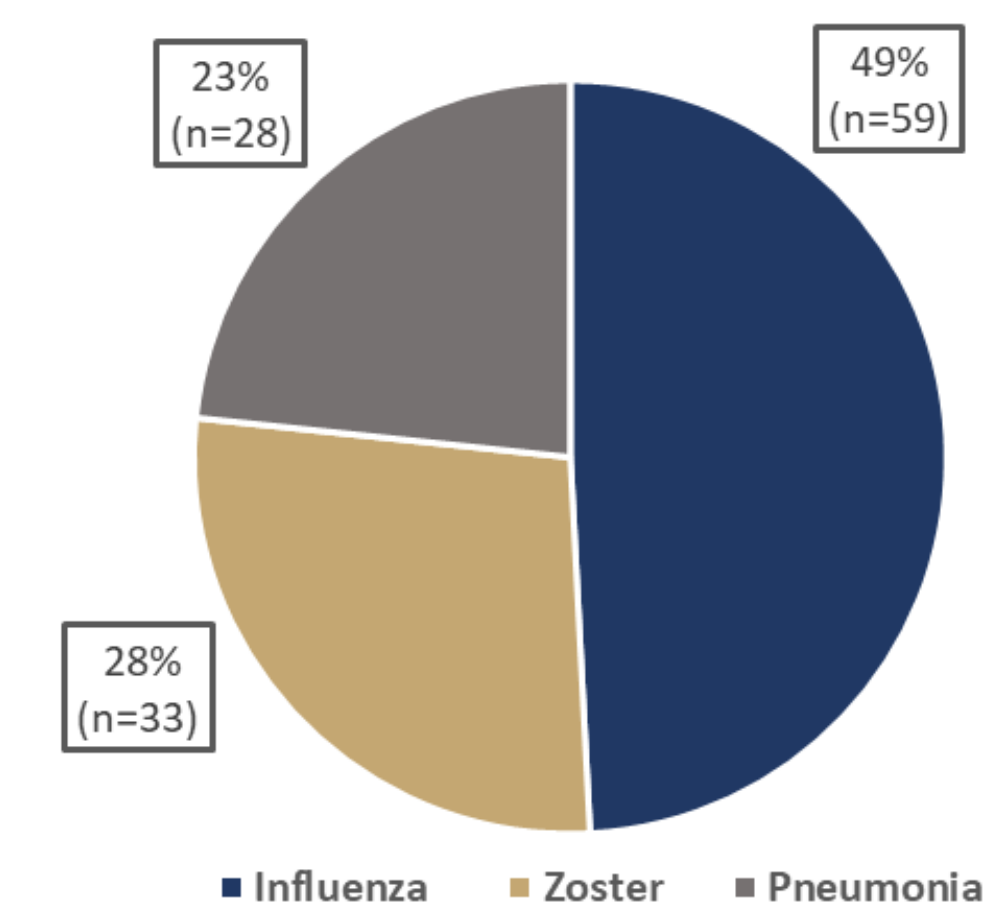
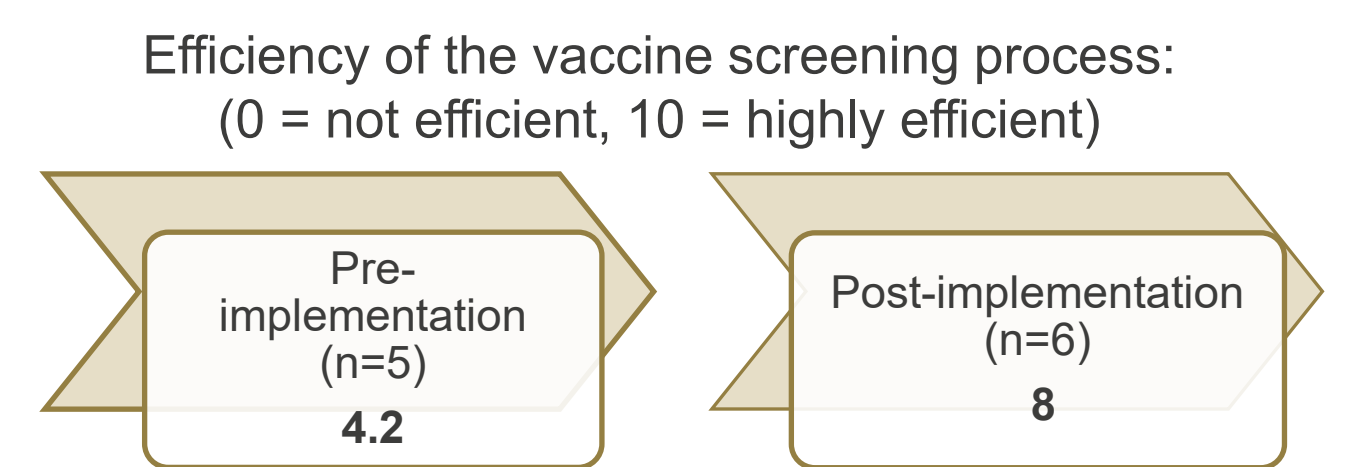


FIGURE 5. TYPES OF VACCINES



PHARMACIST IMPLEMENTATION SURVEYS



COMMENTS

- "It is **very easy to use and clear in the chart.**"
- "...a **great resource for us to use to ensure appropriate vaccines are being recommended and completed.**"

SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS

- "We discuss the COVID vaccine with almost every patient. It would be great to include that..."
- Include dose series option for multi-dose vaccines
- Pull vaccine date information: "Toggling...to find vaccines dates was a little inefficient."
- Add declined or previously completed vaccines
- Auto-insert previously completed labs

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Allow prescription attachment to counseling documentation for provider review
- Auto-populating the vaccine screening form in counseling notes rather than inserting via EHR typing shortcuts
- Long-term follow-up to determine which patients receive recommended vaccines
- Create and provide vaccine information handouts to patients
- Pulling in lab or vaccine values from previously completed forms

CONCLUSIONS

- Implementation of a standardized vaccine screening protocol led to successful screening in most eligible patients
- 94.7% of patients screened received specific vaccine recommendations
- The vaccine screening protocol was overall rated as efficient by specialty pharmacists