Nurses, vaccination and multi-stakeholders collaboration: an industry perspective

Florence Baron-Papillon, Vaccines Europe Board member

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Vaccines Europe represents 12 research-based companies, including SMEs.

80% of Vaccines Europe members’ production is in Europe.

Worldwide Suppliers

86% is exported outside Europe with 50% of exports going to humanitarian groups (UNICEF, PAHO, GAVI)

Source: The EU Vaccine Industry in Figures, Vaccines Europe
http://www.vaccineseurope.eu/about-vaccines/vaccines-europe-in-figures/
Did you know:

- Vaccines are one of the greatest medical achievements in history, saving 2-3 million lives globally every year by preventing infectious diseases.

- Vaccination contributes substantially to health, healthcare systems sustainability and society at large by preventing morbidity and mortality.

- Vaccines can protect everyone: newborn babies, infants, children, adults and the older adults.

- Vaccines offer community-wide protection.

- Close to 30 diseases today are vaccine-preventable.

- It costs less than 4,000 Euro (including administration costs) to protect a person for their entire life against the 17 most relevant vaccine-preventable diseases.

- Vaccines play an important role in the fight against antimicrobial resistance.

- More than 80% of vaccine doses are produced in Europe by R&D-led pharmaceutical companies.
Burden of disease

ECDC estimates between 15,000 and 70,000 deaths attributed to influenza occur in Europe every year!

Severe flu infection can lead to:

- metabolic diseases (e.g. diabetes);
- chronic lung conditions (e.g. chronic bronchitis);
- cardiovascular disease (e.g. coronary artery disease);
- hepatic disease;
- haematologic conditions;
- morbid obesity (body mass index >40);
- genetic conditions;
- chronic kidney diseases (e.g. chronic renal failure);
- chronic neurological conditions and physical handicap (e.g. cerebral palsy); and
- conditions and treatments that suppress the immune function (e.g. chemotherapy).
Seasonal influenza vaccination and antiviral use in EU/EEA Member States (ECDC, 2018)

Figure 4. Seasonal influenza vaccination coverage rates in older age groups, 19 EU/EEA Member States, influenza seasons 2015–2016; 2016–2017 and, if available, 2017–2018*

Figure 7. Seasonal influenza vaccination coverage rates among healthcare workers in 12 EU/EEA Member States, influenza seasons: 2015–2016; 2016–2017; 2017–2018
Message from the European Commission

"Protecting health, saving lives"

https://europa.eu/!UH86fD
Nurses and vaccination in Europe

Nurses allowed to administer vaccines in Europe (based on 2016 data)
• Finland, Greece, Ireland, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden & UK
• Very Important role in the vaccination program
• Both private and public sector nurses
  – In GP’s practice, in health center unit or in school system it depends on the country
• For all types of vaccines

Countries where some nurses are allowed to administer all or some vaccines (based on 2016 data)
• France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands & Switzerland
  – France & Germany: GP’s request is mandatory
  – Italy: Only in some health unit
  – Netherlands: Only nurses in travel clinics (travel vaccines) & nurses at GP practice (only flu vaccine)
  – Switzerland: All vaccines except infant and travel
• Important role in the vaccination program
• Type of vaccines: it depends
  – All in France & Italy, only flu and travel vaccines in Netherlands…
• What needs to change: Law
We think:

Expanding convenient access to vaccine administration should go together as a shared responsibility of all healthcare professionals, i.e. Doctors/GPs, nurses, midwives, pharmacists, to vaccinate and be vaccinated.
Recommendations at EU level to expand access to vaccination:

• Facilitate access to national and/or regional vaccination services by simplifying and broadening opportunities to offer vaccination, leveraging community-based providers such as pharmacies, nurses, (…)

• Adopt local legislation as appropriate to allow pharmacists’, nurses and other potential administrators to increasingly become involved in administering vaccines

• Continuous medical education programmes should include or strengthen training on vaccine-preventable diseases, vaccinology, and immunisation for healthcare workers across all sectors

• Use the European Structural Funds, in particular the European Social Fund and the European Regional Development Fund, to strengthen vaccine-related training of the healthcare professionals
EU initiatives on vaccination

**EU Parliament resolution** on vaccine hesitancy & the drop in vaccination rates in EU

- *calls on Member States to ensure sufficient vaccination of healthcare workers*

**Council Recommendation on strengthened cooperation against VPDs**

- "*Healthcare workers play a key role in working towards the goal of improved vaccination coverage rates*"

- "*The insufficient vaccination coverage rates of healthcare workers and their adequate training on vaccination must be addressed* to ensure their own - and their patients’ - protection, in line with national recommendations."

- "*Strengthen training on vaccine-preventable diseases, vaccinology, and immunisation in national medical curricula and any continuing medical education programmes for healthcare workers across all sectors whenever advisable, to strengthen their key role in aiming for higher vaccination coverage rates.*"

- European Commission Coalition on vaccination: *bring together "European associations of healthcare workers as well as relevant students' associations in the field, to commit to delivering accurate information to the public, combating myths and exchanging best practice.” (Kick-off 4th March)*

**EU Joint Action on Vaccination**

- *One of the deliverables: Launch of the training module towards professionals in selected countries*
Other initiatives: Steering Group on Influenza Vaccination*
www.eufightingflu.com

GATHERING COMMITTED AND INVOLVED INDIVIDUALS...

Co-chairs:

François Grossetête
Member of the European Parliament (EPP – France)

Thomas Szucs
Professor and Director, the European Center of Pharmaceutical Medicine, the University of Basel

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Members:

Former Members:

Jamie Wilkinson
Former Director of Professional Affairs at PGEU

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Susanna Palkonen
Director of the European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients’ Associations

Sally Kendall
Chair of the European Forum for Primary Care (EFPC)

Jan De Belie
Professional Affairs Advisor at the Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union (PGEU)

*Secretariat supported by Vaccines Europe
Other initiatives: Steering Group on Influenza Vaccination

www.eufightingflu.com

✓ Promote influenza vaccination uptake among all healthcare professionals to provide a positive example and fulfil an ethical obligation towards patients

✓ Engage in a multi-stakeholder dialogue, especially including healthcare professionals and health authorities, to raise public awareness of the importance and safety of influenza vaccination

✓ Organise training programmes for healthcare professionals on immunisation

✓ Encourage the development of Healthcare Professionals’ inter-professional collaboration at local, regional and national level to build support, trust and access to influenza vaccination across the sector

✓ Establish a European Influenza Awareness Day (Concept paper developed)
Vaccines Europe position
Vaccine hesitancy and uptake

• Vaccines Europe sees the actions proposed by the Commission to address the vaccine hesitancy determinants of confidence, complacency and convenience, including **stronger engagement of physicians, nurses and pharmacists**, as crucial in view of **improving the uptake** of effective vaccines and **avoid outbreaks** of Vaccine Preventable Diseases

• Vaccine Europe considers that member states are in the lead to address these important issues and should indicate if and how they want industry support.

- Engage EU and national HCP organisations to increase HCP awareness and education on benefits of vaccination
- Organize pan EU-vaccination campaigns
- Facilitate patient access to vaccination by considering other channels such as pharmacies, etc.

• Vaccines Europe supports an online platform **www.VaccinesToday.eu**

*Vaccines Europe priorities for vaccination policies in Europe, 2017*
Thank you for your attention!

More info on the Vaccines Europe position can be found at: https://www.vaccineseurope.eu/eu-initiatives-on-vaccination/

Website: www.vaccineseurope.eu
Twitter: https://twitter.com/VaccinesEurope