

Covid-19 Vaccination Toolkit for Pregnancy: A Quality Improvement Project

Blair M. Blanchette and Carissa C. Nelson

Department of Nursing

The College of St. Scholastica



Problem & Significance

- As of September 2021, more than 125,000 pregnant women have been infected with the coronavirus (covid-19) (Center for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2021).
- Pregnant women with covid-19 have an increased risk of severe illness and adverse birth outcomes (Cuan et al., 2020).
- Only 1 in 4 pregnant women report having received the covid-19 vaccine (Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2021b).

Gap Analysis

Pregnant women were excluded from covid-19 vaccine trials, like almost all clinical trials, due to historical restrictions and ethical concerns regarding potential harm to the fetus. This lack of clinical data causes hesitation for many pregnant individuals as they ponder whether or not to receive the vaccine. Information regarding covid-19 vaccination is ever-changing as research and data becomes more readily available.

Guiding Frameworks

To better understand why pregnant women are hesitant and skeptical to receive the covid-19 vaccine, it is useful to look at the Uncertainty in Illness Theory, developed by Merle Mishel, PhD, RN, FAAN. Mishel's Uncertainty in Illness Theory provides a conceptual framework to explain how patients and caregivers address uncertainty related to disease diagnosis, outcomes, and treatments. A toolkit can help facilitate a conversation regarding the benefits, risks, and effects of the covid-19 vaccine.

Project Sustainability

This project was not funded and did not have a budget. This is a sustainable project because there is little to no cost associated with the toolkit. The only cost would be associated with printing materials to have these handouts available. Once the toolkit was implemented in a clinic, there would need to be someone willing to edit the toolkit as vaccine updates become available.

Specific Goals

- The overall goal of this project was to develop a toolkit for obstetric healthcare providers to review and provide feedback.
- The main aim of this toolkit is to educate patients, facilitate conversation, and provide resources about the covid-19 vaccine during pregnancy.
- The overall goal of this project is to improve patient outcomes.



PAHQ, 2021

Impact on Practice

Health care providers play a crucial role in educating pregnant women about the covid-19 vaccine. Using a toolkit can facilitate an important conversation about vaccination and can help patients make informed decisions. This toolkit provides one location for health care providers to find the most up to date information regarding the covid-19 vaccine and pregnancy.

Logic Model

- Inputs: time spent researching current COVID-19 vaccination recommendations for pregnancy, time spent researching previous toolkits for healthcare, and technology through the use of computers for research and sending the toolkit, handouts/pamphlet, and survey.
- Outputs: Create a COVID-19 vaccination toolkit for pregnancy and create COVID-19 vaccination handouts/pamphlets.
- Outcomes: Short Term- 75% of those who received the toolkit and handouts/pamphlets respond to post-survey. Long Term- increased number of pregnant women receiving the COVID-19 vaccination.

Measures & Results

This project had five participants who were willing to review the toolkit and provide feedback. When asked 'How likely is it that you will use this toolkit in your current practice?' two providers answered 'very likely' (40%) while three providers answered 'likely' (60%). The second question measured 'how beneficial would you say the content within this toolkit is in your current practice?'. One provider answered 'a great deal' (20%) while four providers answered 'a lot' (80%). Next question asked 'How likely is it that you would recommend this toolkit to other health care providers in the same specialty? Two providers were 'very likely' (40%) to recommend the toolkit to fellow colleagues while three providers were 'likely' (60%). When asked 'What other content related to the COVID-19 vaccination would you like to see included in this toolkit?' one provider felt 'information about vaccination around active covid is missing' while another provider felt the toolkit should 'include what patients should do if they get covid between their first and second dose. Finally, the last question asked 'Do you have any other recommended changes that you wish to see in this toolkit?'. One provider recommended 'combining all the documents into one' while another provider offered the suggestion to 'condense the toolkit into a pamphlet so it is more appealing to patients'.

Literature Review

Covid-19 is a relatively new virus and the information available to healthcare providers is continually changing. At this time, toolkits available for healthcare providers intending to educate their patients about the covid-19 vaccine during pregnancy are limited. However, toolkits have proven to be effective for other pregnancy-related health issues including stillbirth and the Zika virus. Other toolkits have also been developed to help guide healthcare providers with conditions unrelated to pregnancy such as improving the primary care for autistic adults. Overall, these toolkits have been found to be helpful in guiding healthcare professionals when caring for patients across the lifespan.

