

General anesthesia is a **teachable moment** for seasonal influenza vaccination in pediatric patients



University of Colorado
Anschutz Medical Campus

Tyler Morrissey MD, Tessa Mandler MD, Myron Yaster MD, Kim Strupp MD, and Influenza Vaccination Team
Division of Pediatric Anesthesiology, Department of Anesthesiology, Children's Hospital Colorado, Aurora, CO



Children's Hospital Colorado

BACKGROUND

A **teachable moment** is an event that “motivates individuals to spontaneously adopt risk-reducing health behaviors” (e.g. smoking cessation before surgery)¹. Influenza (“flu”) vaccination is recommended at all healthcare visits for patients 6 months of age and older.

HYPOTHESIS

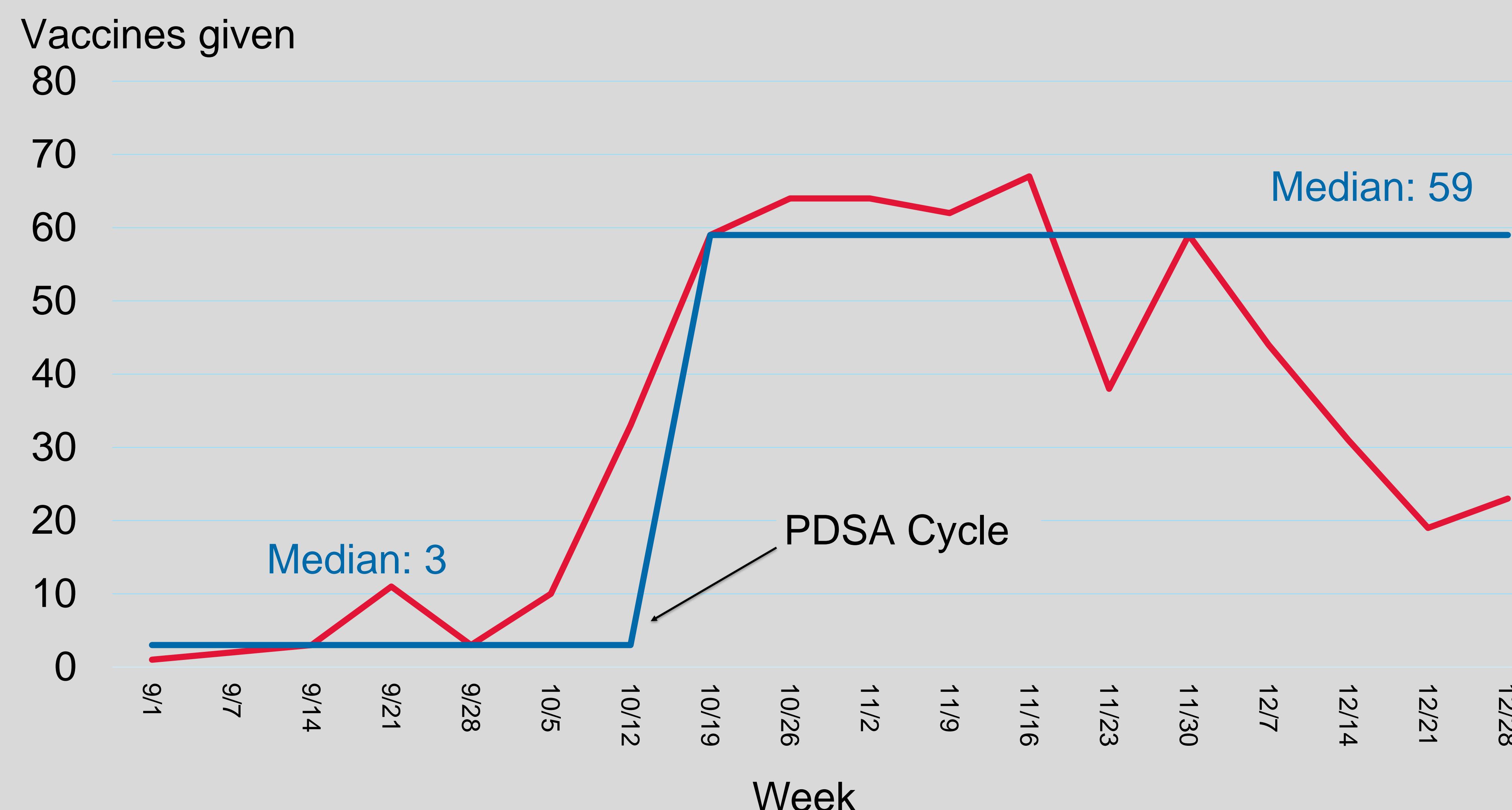
Anesthesia is a *teachable moment* for flu vaccination. Creating a standardized process to offer flu vaccines to all patients undergoing anesthesia will significantly increase the number of patients vaccinated.

METHODS

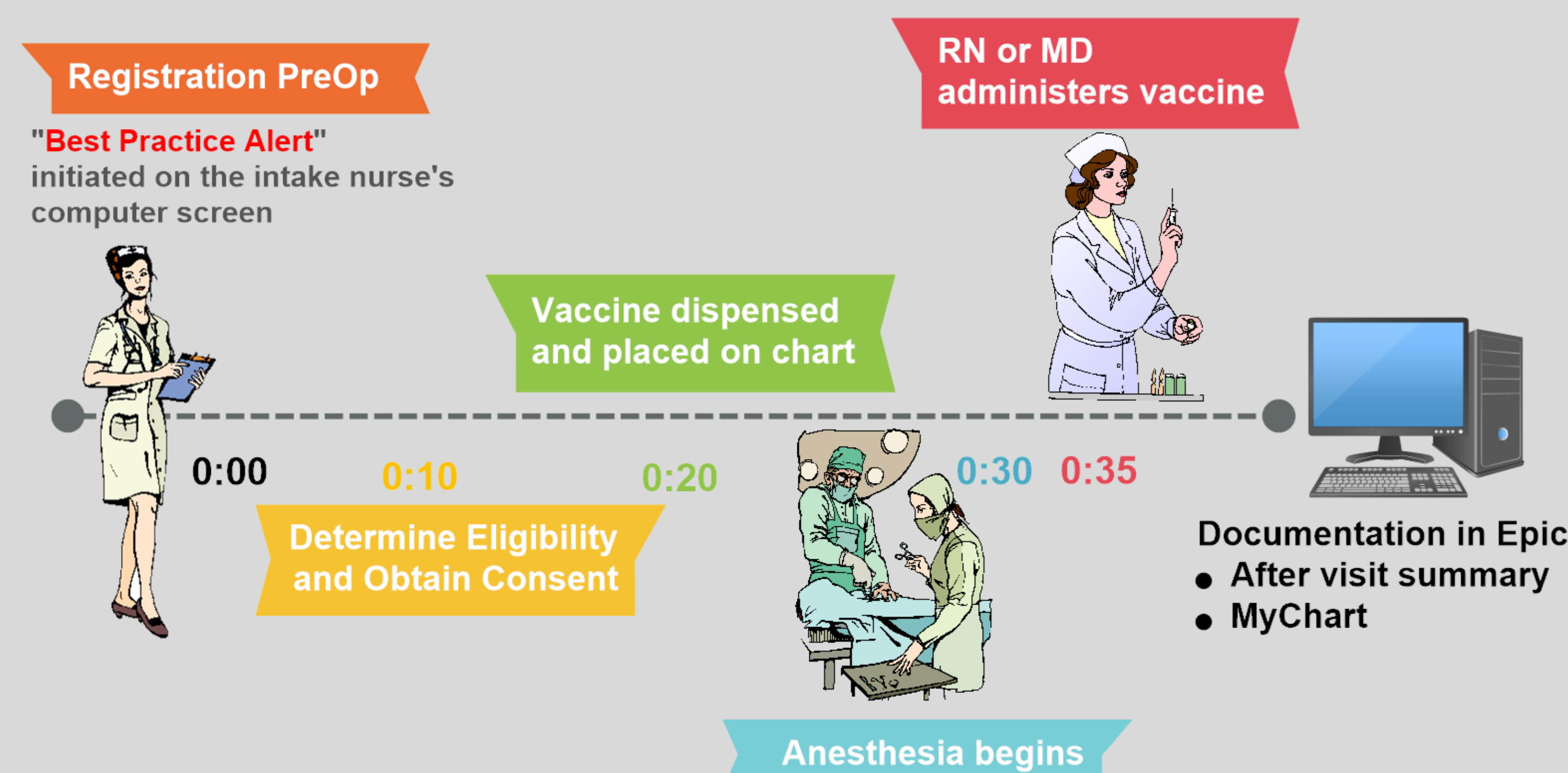
A standardized “best practice” process was developed to offer flu vaccinations to all patients undergoing elective general anesthesia. A standing order for the vaccine was developed. After determining eligibility and obtaining consent, the vaccine was placed on the patient’s chart to be given after induction of anesthesia. Immunization were documented in MyChart (Epic.com) and printed in the after-visit summary.

RESULTS

Weekly Perioperative Influenza Vaccine Administration



Perioperative Flu Vaccination



CONCLUSIONS

Actively offering flu vaccinations to pediatric patients undergoing general anesthesia significantly increased the number of vaccinations administered. Multidisciplinary collaboration between anesthesiology, perioperative services, infectious disease, and surgery was essential for successful implementation of this practice change.

IMPLICATIONS

General anesthesia is a *teachable moment* for immunization and may be a model for other childhood vaccinations, including the COVID-19 vaccine.

DISCLOSURES

The authors have nothing to disclose.

REFERENCES

1. Shi Y, Warner David O: Surgery as a Teachable Moment for Smoking Cessation. *Anesthesiology* 2010; 112: 102-107

INFLUENZA VACCINATION TEAM

James Thomas MD¹, Suchitra Rao MD², Katherine Klockau PharmD³, Regina Hoefner-Noetz MS BSN RN CPAN CPN FASPAN⁴, Emily Parra MS⁴, BSN, RN
1. University of Colorado Department of Anesthesiology 2. University of Colorado Department of Infectious Diseases 3. Children's Hospital Colorado (CHCO) Department of Pharmacy 4. CHCO Perioperative Services