

Hepatitis B vaccination of dialysis patients – Nurses’ role in patient education

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Introduction

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) patients have both an increased incidence and severity of infections because of their impaired immune competence and higher exposure to microbes due to frequent contacts with medical care facilities for CKD diagnosis or treatment, e.g. repeated dialysis sessions.

Infections take the second place after cardiovascular diseases among the causes of death in dialysis patients.

Hepatitis B vaccination is the best method to avoid acute and chronic consequences of infections and protect the individual and the community.

The vaccine response is reduced over time due to the impairment of organ function; therefore patients should be vaccinated as soon as possible in the early stages of their renal disease.

Nurses play a key role in preventing and controlling infections by educating patients and families on the necessity of vaccinations.

Objectives

To promote hepatitis B vaccination among haemodialysis patients treated in a dialysis unit of a large network.

Methods

The project started in June 2016 (t0); the target was to increase the percentage of patients vaccinated against hepatitis B. Patients with contraindications for specific comorbidities and non-responders were excluded.

Regular monthly updates were performed by the healthcare staff.

Results

85 HD patients of a dialysis unit were enrolled in the project. At t0, 72.7% of all patients were vaccinated.

In December 2017, 91.0% (t1) of all patients were vaccinated against hepatitis B virus.

Conclusion

Hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection in haemodialysis patients and associated adverse health consequences are a worldwide health priority.

Vaccination in association with regular screening and patient education by the nurses can help to increase compliance and improve outcomes of immunisation programmes.

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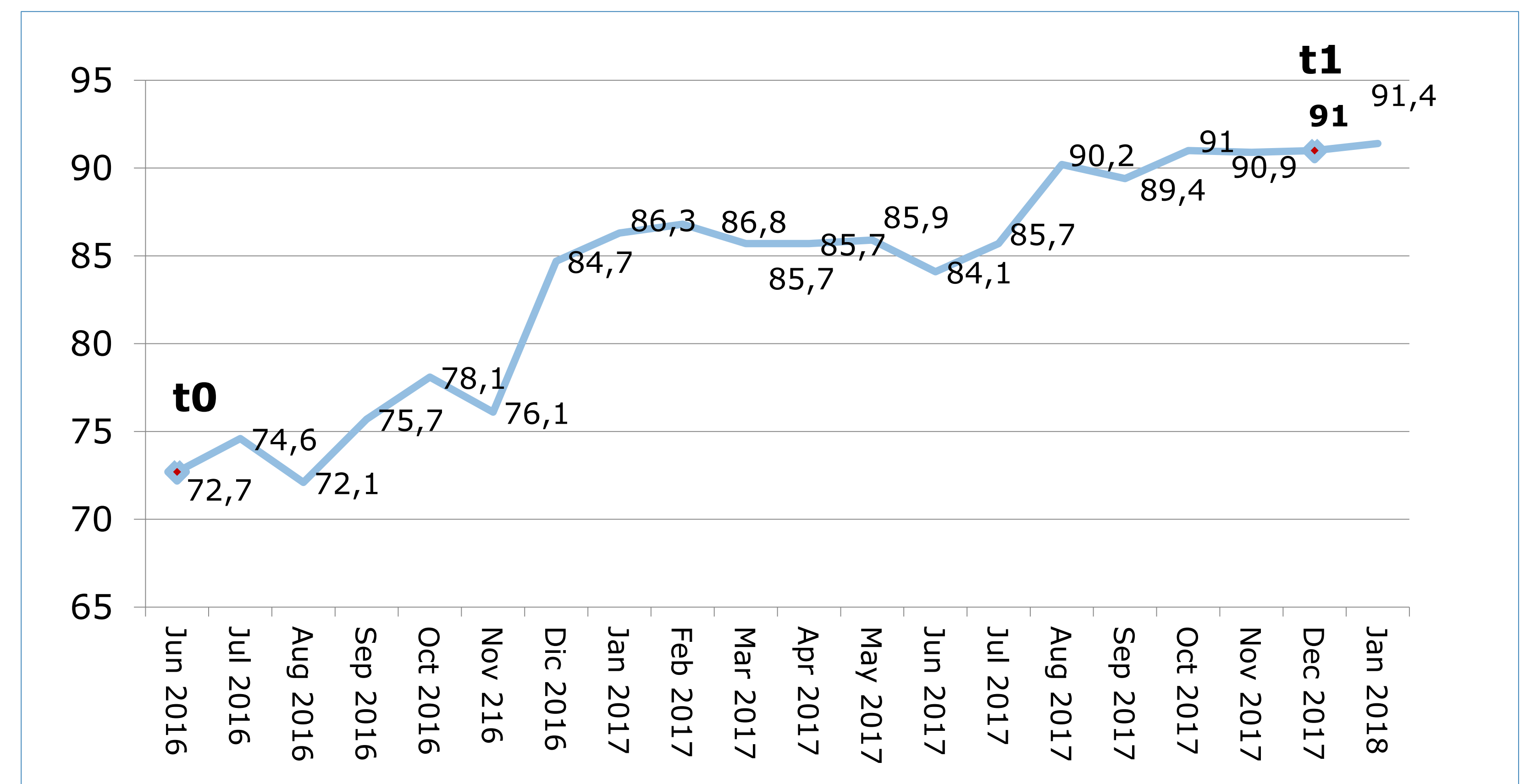


Figure 1: Trend of vaccinated haemodialysis patients



Figure 2: Nursing care dedication