

# 2nd International Conference and Expo on Vaccines and Vaccination

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## Immunizing Pregnant Women, Benefits and Challenges

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### Introduction:

Vaccine-preventable infectious diseases are responsible for significant maternal, neonatal, and young infant morbidity and mortality. Changes in the immune response in pregnant women – which are thought to occur in order to allow the woman to tolerate the semi-allogeneic foetus – may interfere with the development of the specific immune response to pathogens. These immunological changes may alter the susceptibility of the woman and the foetus to certain infectious diseases and increase the risk of more serious outcomes. This paper discuss the benefits and challenges of immunization of pregnant women.

Immunization of pregnant women can protect them directly against vaccine-preventable infections, and in so doing potentially protect the foetus. It can also directly protect the foetus and infant via specific antibodies transferred from the mother during the pregnancy.

Pregnant women and their babies are at increased risk for influenza-related complications, including premature labour and preterm birth. Additionally, pertussis outbreaks continue to occur with infants at highest risk of severe illness and death. However, immunization coverage among pregnant women is suboptimal. Clients report concerns for the safety of vaccines and not receiving vaccine recommendations at healthcare provider visits.

Department of Health and Human services recommendation includes Assess the immunization status of each patient, Recommend the indicated vaccines to each patient, Administer any necessary vaccines or, if you do not stock the vaccine, refer the patient to a provider or location that can vaccinate the patient, Document the vaccinations that your patient is given, ideally in your state or local immunization registry.

### Conclusion:

Health care providers play a crucial role in helping keep pregnant women and their new born healthy. Assuring our patients are protected by recommended vaccines is key.

### Biography:

Litty Varghese RN, RM, MSN is working as Senior Charge Nurse, Nursing Education, AHS/SEHA, UAE. She has 34 years of experience in the field of PHC and Ambulatory Health care Services, UAE and has expertise as JCIA chapter lead and tracer team member, quality improvement coordinator, diabetic clinic project coordinator, community program organizer, nurse educator, newsletter editor and researcher. She holds Master's Degree in Community Nursing, Post Graduate Diploma in Nursing Administration and obtained certification in Principles of Epidemiology and Biostatistics from CDC, Atlanta. She taught Vaccination in the residency program in Faculty of Medicine UAE for 3 years. Her awards and recognitions with her continuance in excellent professionalism, she won the first seha best employee award 2012(one among top 12), the 3rd best abstract award at the pan arab hypertension conference in Abu Dhabi Feb. 5-9, 2000, and actively participated in winning the following awards: ARAB HEALTH AWARD FOR PHC Chronic Disease program; 2009

ARAB HEALTH AWARD FOR Nursing HR development; 2010. Her Philosophy is "Passionately leading and caring, the best teacher should be the best lifelong student, and we generate value for ourselves by adding value to others"