

National Quality Improvement Conference

Protecting the vulnerable populations in COVID-19 pandemic

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Problem Statement

Slow uptake of recommendation on 3rd / additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine for primary series in Immuno-compromised patients in the pandemic



Increase risk of hospital admission, risk of being critically ill and mortality



Increased risk of burden to healthcare system

Project Aim

Reduce the number of immuno-compromised patients with rheumatic diseases who did not receive the 3rd dose of COVID-19 vaccine for primary series by the third month after their 2nd dose from 100% to less than 20% by August 2022

Lessons Learnt

Conclusion:

- COVID-19 vaccination remains an important strategy against the pandemic
- The strategies were successful in increasing the uptake of 3rd dose of COVID-19 vaccine for primary series in our patients on immuno-modulators and aligned with MOH recommendation
- The solutions and strategies reduced the risk of hospital admission, risk of being critically ill and mortality due to COVID-19 pandemic in patients with rheumatic diseases on immuno-modulators
- There were no adverse events from the additional 3rd vaccine dose for primary series

Potential Solutions

Root causes

Not aware of OR not understand the reasons of 3rd dose vaccine for primary series

Did not receive information on 3rd dose of COVID-19 vaccine as primary series

Hesitant to receive 3rd dose of vaccine for primary series

Misconceptions regarding COVID 19 vaccination

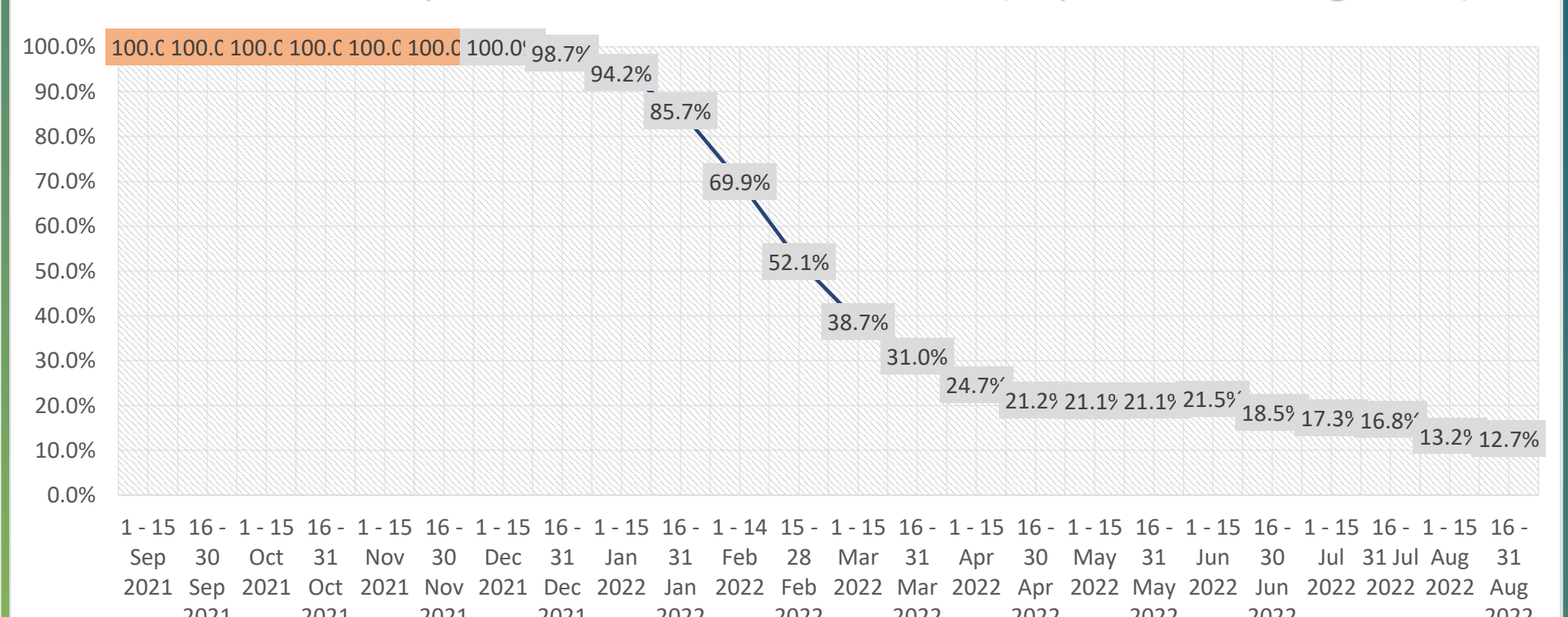
Solutions to root causes (implemented Dec 2021)

- Proactively inform, educate, debunk myths and encourage patients to receive 3rd dose of COVID-19 vaccine for primary series during clinic visit, via phone and emails after patient received 2nd dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
- Assigning vaccine appointment at KKH or providing memo for patients to obtain vaccination in the community.
- Tracking COVID-19 vaccination on 3rd dose for primary series for Immuno-compromised patients with rheumatic diseases and following up with them if they missed/cancelled their 3rd dose of COVID-19 vaccination for primary series and reschedule appointment accordingly

Outcomes & Impacts

Reduced the number of immuno-compromised patients with rheumatic diseases who did not receive the 3rd dose of COVID-19 vaccine for primary series by the third month after their 2nd dose from **100% to less than 20% by Aug 2022.**

% of Immuno-compromised patients with rheumatic diseases who are not compliant with recommendation (Sept 2021 to Aug 2022)



Number immunocompromised patients	197
Number of COVID infection (%)	83 (42.1)
Number of patients admitted due to COVID 19 (%)	2 (2.4)