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Research Summary

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Category (clinical/public health): Public Health
Data focus: National

Title Improving reporting rates of hospitalized pneumonia cases in Vanuatu: An evaluation study

Abstract

Background

Reporting of hospitalized pneumonia cases in Vanuatu can lead to the early identification of COVID-19 cases. Health care workers play an important role to ensure complete and timely data collection. Reporting of hospitalized pneumonia cases in Vanuatu began in 2020 and achieving 100% reporting rate remains a challenge across Vanuatu. Knowledge gap of reporting processes and disease case definition is presumed to be one of the challenges affecting proper reporting.

Methods

A training session was conducted in May 2021 with 41 health care workers from all six provincial hospitals across Vanuatu. The training focused on case definitions, reporting processes for notifiable diseases including pneumonia and hospital surveillance in the context of COVID-19.

Results

The average number of pneumonia reports received across Vanuatu per week before the May 2021 training is four. The average number of pneumonia reports received per week in the period after the training is six.

Discussions

The increase in the number of pneumonia reports across Vanuatu after the training session show that the reporting rate of hospitalized pneumonia is improving. This demonstrates that knowledge gap is a factor contributing to the poor reporting rate of hospitalized pneumonia in Vanuatu.