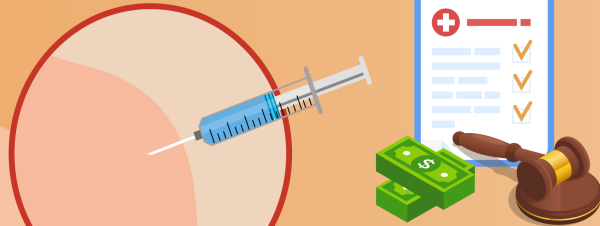
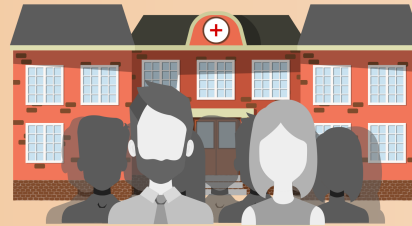


Is Influenza Vaccination Associated with Increased Physician Visits for Shoulder Pain?

After the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP) broadened coverage to include influenza vaccines, the number of claims for shoulder injury from vaccination has rapidly increased



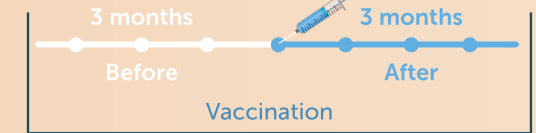
However, the high prevalence of shoulder pain, combined with the large number of annual influenza vaccinations, makes overlap highly probable, which increases the risk of falsely attributing cause and effect



University health services medical records

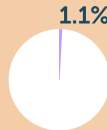


24,206 influenza vaccinations administered to 12,870 people over a 10-year period

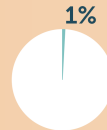


Proportion of shoulder evaluations

Proportion of visits for shoulder problems did not increase after vaccination



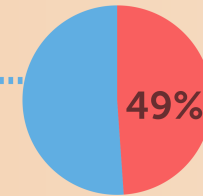
Before



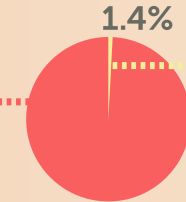
After



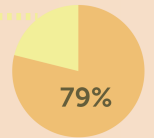
24,206 vaccinations



P preceded or followed by an appointment



Visits related to shoulder issues



Atraumatic shoulder pain

Is there a difference in the proportion of visits for shoulder pain within 3 months before and after vaccination among students and faculty receiving an influenza vaccination in the shoulder?

- ➔ Visits for shoulder pain are equally common before and after vaccination, which is not what one would expect to see if vaccine injures the shoulder
- ➔ Although this does not rule out rare causes of shoulder pathology specific to vaccination, there was no evidence here to suggest that this pathology is present, and it may be erroneous to assume that shoulder pain arising after vaccination is caused by the vaccine