1. INTRODUCTION

In 2007, the Portuguese legislation extended pharmacies’ role, by allowing the provision of immunization services. At that time was defined a complementary role for pharmacies in immunization without overlap with public and mandatory National Vaccination Plan. Pharmacies were entitled to provide immunization services with vaccines not covered by National Vaccination Plan. The Association of Portuguese Pharmacies (ANF) developed a complete training program, a specific intervention model and recommendations to support pharmacies and pharmacists in the provision of this service. Pharmacies have implemented, since 2008, a Nationwide Influenza Immunization Campaign on an annual basis.

2. AIMS

To provide an overview of the % of vaccines administered in pharmacies and other indicators over the years.

3. SETTINGS

Community pharmacies.

4. METHODS

A cross-sectional study was performed at each influenza season (Oct.-Mar.) based on data recorded in pharmacies from 2008/9 to 2014/15. First data based on paper records and spreadsheet since 2008 and from 2012 on directly in pharmacy’s specific software (SIFARMA). All records are anonymously (regarding patients and pharmacy individual data) and automatically transmitted for evaluation purposes by ANF. Vaccination records include patient name, age and sex, vaccine and batch used, route of administration, date and pharmacist name.

5. RESULTS

The estimated % of vaccines administered (on total vaccines dispensed) was 36.4% (2008/9), 49.7% (2009/10), 44.2% (2010/11) and 49% (2011/12). In 2012/13, the % was the lowest ever (38%) but increasing (40.9% in 2012/13, 49.2% as preliminary estimate for 2014/15). The preference for pharmacies was established. Until 2011/12, flu vaccines were administered almost solely in pharmacies.

The first 4 seasons demonstrate an increase in major indicators. Since 2012/13, flu vaccines are administered for free in health centers to individuals aged 65 and over with no need for a prescription. By contrast, the NHS financing of vaccines and service development a complete training program, a specific intervention model and recommendations to support pharmacies and pharmacists in the provision of this service. This could be an opportunity to integrate pharmacies in a National Influenza Immunization Campaign.

6. CONCLUSIONS

The estimated % of vaccines administered (on total vaccines dispensed) was 36.4% (2008/9), 49.7% (2009/10), 44.2% (2010/11) and 49% (2011/12). In 2012/13, the % was the lowest ever (38%) but increasing (40.9% in 2012/13, 49.2% as preliminary estimate for 2014/15). The preference for pharmacies was established. Until 2011/12, flu vaccines were administered almost solely in pharmacies.

7. REFERENCES