Why the 15 Minute Wait?

After receiving a vaccination, many providers require their patients to wait 15 minutes before they leave due to the potential for syncope (fainting) and/or an allergic reaction to the vaccine. In order to prevent fainting, the following precautions will be taken:

1. While being vaccinated, the individual receiving the vaccine will remain seated
2. Those vaccinated will be constantly observed for symptoms of weakness, dizziness, pallor, and other signs occurring prior to fainting immediately after receiving a flu shot
3. In the event symptoms do occur, appropriate measures will be taken to prevent injuries

There have been an increased number of fainting reports to the Vaccine Adverse Event Report System (VAERS) since 2005. Serious injuries have occurred due to syncope, including one fatality caused by trauma to the head. Of those who experienced syncope, and for whom vaccination and fainting times were reported, 80% had their experience within 15 minutes of vaccination. Allergic reactions are also thought to manifest within a short time after receiving a vaccination. Therefore, in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), CareHere is requesting that all individuals receiving the flu vaccine at the on-campus flu clinics and in the onsite Health and Wellness Centers to wait 15 minutes after vaccination for observation.