

Refusal to Vaccinate

Child's Name: _____ Child's ID # _____

Parent's/Guardian's Name: _____

My child's doctor/nurse, _____ has advised me that my child (named above) should receive the following vaccines:

Recommended

- Hepatitis B vaccine
- Diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis (DTaP or Tdap) vaccine
- Diphtheria tetanus (DT or Td) vaccine
- Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) vaccine
- Pneumococcal conjugate or polysaccharide vaccine
- Inactivated poliovirus (IPV) vaccine
- Measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine.
- Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine
- Influenza (flu) vaccine
- Meningococcal conjugate or polysaccharide vaccine
- Hepatitis A vaccine
- Rotavirus vaccine
- Human papillomavirus vaccine
- Other

Declined

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I have read the Vaccine Information Statement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention explaining the vaccine(s) and the disease(s) it prevents. I have had the opportunity to discuss this with my child's doctor or nurse, who has answered all of my questions regarding the recommended vaccine(s). I understand the following:

- The **purpose** of and the need for the recommended vaccine(s)
- The **risks and benefits** of the recommended vaccine(s)
- If my child does not receive the vaccine(s) according to the medically accepted schedule, **the consequences** may include:
 - Contracting the illness the vaccine should prevent (The outcomes of these illnesses may include one or more of the following: certain types of cancer, pneumonia, illness requiring hospitalization, death, brain damage, paralysis, meningitis, seizures, and deafness. Other severe and permanent effects from these vaccine-preventable diseases are possible as well)
 - Transmitting the disease to others
 - Requiring my child to stay out of child care or school during disease outbreaks
- My child's doctor or nurse, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention all strongly recommend that the vaccine(s) be given according to recommendations.

Nevertheless, I have decided at this time to decline or defer the vaccine(s) recommended for my child, as indicated above, by checking the appropriate box under the column titled "Declined."

I know that failure to follow the recommendations about vaccination may endanger the health or life of my child and others with which my child might come into contact.

I know that I may readdress this issue with my child's doctor or nurse at any time and that I may change my mind and accept vaccination for my child anytime in the future.

I acknowledge that I have read this document in its entirety and fully understand it.

Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____
Signature _____
Witness _____ Date _____

I have had the opportunity to rediscuss my decision not to vaccinate my child and still decline the recommended immunizations.

Parent's initials _____ Date _____ Parent's initials _____ Date _____
Parent's initials _____ Date _____ Parent's initials _____ Date _____



Parental Refusal to Accept Vaccination: Resources for Pediatricians

The following are some of the resources available to help pediatricians develop a productive dialogue with vaccine-hesitant parents and answer questions about vaccine risks and benefits:

Web sites

1. **AAP's Childhood Immunization Support Program (CISP)**
Information for providers and parents.
www.cispimmunize.org
2. **The Immunization Education Program (IEP) of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics**
Includes answers to common vaccine questions and topics, such as addressing vaccine safety concerns, evaluating anti-vaccine claims, sources of accurate immunization information on the Web; and talking with parents about vaccine safety.
<http://www.paiep.org/>
3. **The Immunization Action Coalition (IAC)**
The IAC works to increase immunization rates by creating and distributing educational materials for health professionals and the public that enhance the delivery of safe and effective immunization services. Their "Unprotected People Reports" are case reports, personal testimonies, and newspaper and journal articles about people who have suffered or died from vaccine-preventable diseases.
<http://www.immunize.org/reports/>
4. **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Immunization Program**
Information about vaccine safety, including Parents' Guide to Childhood Immunizations.
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp.htm>
5. **National Network of Immunization Information (NNii)**
Includes the NNii Resource Kit – Communicating with Patients about Immunizations. A guide to help answer patients' questions and provide the facts about immunizations.
www.immunizationinfo.org
6. **Vaccine Education Center at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia**
Information for parents includes Common Concerns About Vaccines, Are Vaccines Safe, and A Look at Each Vaccine.
www.vaccine.chop.edu
7. **Institute for Vaccine Safety, Johns Hopkins University**
Provides an independent assessment of vaccines and vaccine safety to help guide decision-makers and educate physicians, the public, and the media about key issues surrounding the safety of vaccines.
www.vaccinesafety.edu
8. **The Canadian Coalition for Immunization Awareness and Promotion (CCIAP)**
CCIAP aims to meet the goal of eliminating vaccine-preventable disease through education, promotion, advocacy, and media relations. It includes resources for parents and providers, including "How to advise parents unsure about immunization" by Scott A. Halperin, MD.
<http://immunize.cpha.ca/en/default.aspx>

Journal Articles

1. Ball LK, Evans G, Bostrom A. Risky business: challenges in vaccine risk communication. *Pediatrics*. 1998;101:453-458. Available at: <http://www.pediatrics.org/cgi/content/full/101/3/453> (subscription needed)
2. Dias M, Marcuse EK. When parents resist immunizations. *Contemp Pediatr*. 2000;17:75-86
3. Offit PA, Jew RK. Addressing parents' concerns: do vaccines contain harmful preservatives, adjuvants, additives, or residuals? *Pediatrics*. 2003;112:1394-1397
4. Offit PA, Quarles J, Gerber MA, et al. Addressing parents' concerns: do multiple vaccines overwhelm or weaken the infant's immune system? *Pediatrics*. 2002;109:124-129
5. Diekema DS, and American Academy of Pediatrics, Committee on Bioethics. Responding to parental refusals of immunization of children. *Pediatrics*. 2005;115:1428-1431

Books

1. Offit PA, Bell LM. *Vaccines: What Every Parent Should Know*. New York, NY: IDG Books; 1999
2. Humiston SG, Good C. *Vaccinating Your Child: Questions and Answers for the Concerned Parent*. Atlanta, GA: Peachtree Publishers; 2000
3. Fisher MC. *Immunizations and Infectious Diseases: An Informed Parent's Guide*. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2005
4. Marshall GS. *The Vaccine Handbook: A Practical Guide for Clinicians*. 2nd ed. West Islip, NY: Professional Communications, Inc.; 2008.
5. Myers, MG and Pineda D. *Do Vaccines Cause That? A Guide for Evaluating Vaccine Safety Concerns*. Immunizations for Public Health. 2008

Reliable Immunization Resources for Parents

Web sites

1. **AAP's Childhood Immunization Support Program (CISP)**
Information for providers and parents.
www.cispimmunize.org
2. **Why Should I Immunize My Child?**
A description of the individual diseases and the benefits expected from vaccination.
www.cispimmunize.org/fam/why.html
3. **The Immunization Education Program (IEP) of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics**
Includes answers to common vaccine questions and topics, such as addressing vaccine safety concerns; evaluating anti-vaccine claims; sources of accurate immunization information on the Web; and talking with parents about vaccine safety.
<http://www.paiep.org/>
4. **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Immunization Program**
Information about vaccine safety, including Parents' Guide to Childhood Immunizations
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/spec-grps/parents.htm>
5. **National Network of Immunization Information (NNii)**
Includes the NNii Resource Kit – Communicating with Patients about Immunizations. A guide to help answer patients' questions and provide the facts about immunizations.
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7. **Institute for Vaccine Safety, Johns Hopkins University**
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<http://immunize.cpha.ca/en/default.aspx>
9. **Vaccinate Your Baby**
The Every Child by Two site serves as a central resource of vaccine information for parents. The site links to the latest research and studies about vaccines, an interactive timeline on the benefits of vaccines, information about vaccine safety and ingredients and the importance of adhering to the recommended schedule.
www.vaccinateyourbaby.org

Books:

1. Offit PA, Bell LM. *Vaccines: What Every Parent Should Know*. New York, NY: IDG Books; 1999
2. Humiston SG, Good C. *Vaccinating Your Child: Questions and Answers for the Concerned Parent*. Atlanta, GA: Peachtree Publishers; 2000
3. Fisher MC. *Immunizations and Infectious Diseases: An Informed Parent's Guide*. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2005
4. Myers, MG and Pineda D. *Do Vaccines Cause That? A Guide for Evaluating Vaccine Safety Concerns*. Immunizations for Public Health. 2008