

Pediatric Medicine Vaccine Policy Statement

Effective October 2015, Pediatric Medicine is implementing a new immunization policy. We have always endorsed the childhood immunization policy recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). These guidelines based on scientific research show no link between childhood vaccines and the risk of autism.

When the majority of the population is immunized, herd immunity helps to eradicate childhood diseases. With the declining rates of childhood immunization, herd immunity in the general population is declining. Diseases that have not been seen for years are now being seen in the U.S. again. These diseases are potentially fatal and can cause severe problems in children.

We have a duty to protect all of our patients at Pediatric Medicine, PA. We believe it is a public health risk to expose patients to sick children in the waiting room who are not immunized. We especially must protect the infants who are too young to be immunized and children with weakened immune systems because of cancer or transplants.

Therefore, effective October 2015 we will no longer accept new patients whose parents have decided , with no valid medical reason, to not immunize their child in accordance with the AAP/CDC/ACIP guidelines.

Families who are already in our practice who are not vaccinated or are under vaccinated (including alternative schedules) will need to start bringing their child up to date on required vaccines. You will have until June 2016 to get caught up and then get on the regular recommended schedule. We will no longer allow alternative schedules. This does not apply to children who have a valid medical reason to delay or decline vaccines.

If you are a parent of such a child/children and cannot agree to vaccinate your child according to the AAP/CDC/ACIP schedule, we ask that you find another medical practice that shares your personal philosophy on vaccines. If an effort is not made to start catching up and your child does not get caught up we will terminate the physician/patient relationship. Please contact us if you wish to have your child's medical records transferred to a different provider.

Thanks you for taking the time to read our policy. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can answer any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rebecca Rocha-Davis

Dr. Karen Gibbons

Dr. David Ross

Dr. Antonieta Gonzales

