



RKC Policy for Vaccine Refusal by Parents Informational Handout

The providers of Rainbow Kids Clinic affirm our strong belief that a trusting and confident relationship cannot develop between a care team, including providers and parents, who disagree on the basic standard of care. Information on required RKC vaccine requirements and policy is listed below.

1. RKC will not accept new patients (including siblings of existing patients) whose parents refuse all vaccines for any child.
2. We recommend the continually updated vaccination schedule suggested by CDC, AAP, and ACIP for children of all ages including adolescents. Noncompliance with an acceptable schedule will be grounds for discharge from the clinic. If parents wish to follow an alternate schedule, we will try to accommodate their request as long as parents agree to and comply with a schedule which will bring the child up to date by 18 months of age. This would include 1st dose of MMR, 1st dose of Varicella vaccine and 1st dose of Hepatitis A vaccine. We do not take any responsibility for the safety or efficacy of any such alternate schedule and we will ask the parent to take full responsibility by placing their signature on a form.
3. Regarding immunizations for children of ages 11 and above also, we recommend all the vaccines recommended by CDC, AAP and ACIP. If parents decline either **TDaP** or the **Meningococcal vaccine**, such children will also be discharged from our practice.
4. For new and established patients in the in-between age group (18 months to 11 years), we expect the shots to be up to date. If a child is behind, we are willing to work with those families, but a plan needs to be in place for the child to be caught up within six months. All kindergarten shots must be completed by the child's sixth birthday.
5. If parents refuse vaccines for a new baby in the family, we will not accept such newborns as patients of this practice as per our policy above. If the parent's intention of not wanting vaccines for such a baby becomes apparent only during the first visit or later, we will provide care for such babies only until the baby is determined to be doing well and gaining weight. Then we will ask the family to find a different provider.
6. If parents and medical provider cannot agree on an acceptable vaccination schedule such patients will be discharged from the practice due to noncompliance with the advice given regarding immunizations. A discharge letter will be sent to these parents so that they can find another physician willing to take over care of their child.
7. Refusal by parents will be adequately documented by the provider. Vaccine refusal form will be completed and signed by one of the parents. Practice may submit additional charges to the insurance carrier reflecting additional time spent in counseling and may also provide codes documenting under-vaccination status and parental refusal of vaccination.