

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 Childhood Immunization Support Program (CISP)

Information for providers and parents.

www.aap.org/immunization and

www2.aap.org/immunization/pediatricians/refusaltovaccinate.html

2. 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. The IAC “Unprotected People Reports” are case reports, personal testimonies, and newspaper and journal articles about people who have suffered or died from vaccine-preventable diseases.

www.immunize.org/reports

3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Immunization Program

Information about vaccine safety.

www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp.htm

4. National Network for Immunization Information (NNii)

Includes information to help answer patients’ questions and provide the facts about immunizations.

<http://www.immunizationinfo.org/professionals>

5. Vaccine Education Center at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia

Information for parents includes “Vaccine Safety FAQs” and “A Look at Each Vaccine.”

www.vaccine.chop.edu

6. Institute for Vaccine Safety, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

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

7. Immunize Canada

Immunize Canada aims to meet the goal of eliminating vaccine-preventable disease through education, promotion, advocacy, and media relations. It includes resources for parents and providers.

www.immunize.cpha.ca/en/default.aspx

8. Sample office policy/letter to parents about refusal to vaccinate

Journal Articles

1. Offit PA, Jew RK. Addressing parents’ concerns: do vaccines contain harmful preservatives, adjuvants, additives, or residuals? *Pediatrics*. 2003;112(6 Pt 1):1394–1397

2. 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(1):124–129

3. Diekema DS, American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Bioethics. Responding to parental refusals of immunization of children. *Pediatrics*. 2005;115(5):1428–1431

Books

1. American Academy of Pediatrics. *Red Book: 2012 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases*. Pickering LK, Baker CJ, Long SS, Kimberlin DW, eds. 29th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2012

2. Marshall GS. *The Vaccine Handbook: A Practical Guide for Clinicians*. 4th ed. West Islip, NY: Professional Communications, Inc; 2012

Handout

1. Immunization Action Coalition. Reliable sources of immunization information: where to go to find answers! <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4012.pdf>. Accessed October 17, 2012

Reliable Immunization Resources for Parents

Web Sites

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Vaccine Information Statements

Provide possible health consequences of non-vaccination and possible side effects of each vaccine.

www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm

2. AAP Childhood Immunization Support Program (CISP)

Information for providers and parents.

www.aap.org/immunization

3. Why Immunize?

A description of the individual diseases and the benefits expected from vaccination.

www2.aap.org/immunization/families/faq/whyimmunize.pdf

4. Pennsylvania Immunization Education Program of Pennsylvania Chapter, AAP

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.

www.paiep.org

5. CDC For Parents: Vaccines for Your Children

Information about vaccine safety.

www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/index.html

6. National Network for Immunization Information (NNii)

Includes information to help answer patients’ questions and provide the facts about immunizations.

www.immunizationinfo.org/parents

7. Vaccine Education Center at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia

Information for parents includes “Vaccine Safety FAQs” and “A Look at Each Vaccine.”

www.vaccine.chop.edu

8. Institute for Vaccine Safety, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

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

9. Immunize Canada

Immunize Canada aims to meet the goal of eliminating vaccine-preventable disease through education, promotion, advocacy, and media relations. It includes resources for parents and providers.

<http://immunize.cpha.ca/en/default.aspx>

10. Vaccinate Your Baby

This 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. American Academy of Pediatrics. *Immunizations and Infectious Diseases: An Informed Parent’s Guide*. Fisher MC, ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2006

2. Myers MG, Pineda D. *Do Vaccines Cause That?! A Guide for Evaluating Vaccine Safety Concerns*. Galveston, TX: Immunizations for Public Health; 2008

3. Offit PA. *Autism’s False Prophets: Bad Science, Risky Medicine, and the Search for a Cure*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press; 2008

4. Offit PA. *Deadly Choices: How the Anti-Vaccine Movement Threatens Us All*. New York, NY: Basic Books; 2011

5. Mnookin S. *The Panic Virus: A True Story of Medicine, Science, and Fear*. New York, NY: Simon and Schuster; 2011

6. Offit PA, Moser CA. *Vaccines and Your Child: Separating Fact from Fiction*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press; 2011