

RKC Policy for Vaccine refusal by Parents Information Handout

1. RKC will not accept new patients (including siblings of existing patients) whose parents refuse all vaccines for any child.
2. RKC will accept new patients who wish to follow either Dr Sears schedule or some modification of the same (acceptable to the MD/PNP) 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 and Varicella vaccine. We would like to make it clear that we do not recommend Dr Sears schedule and we continue to recommend the continually updated vaccination schedule suggested by CDC, AAP, and ACIP. Noncompliance with an acceptable schedule will be grounds for discharge from the clinic.
3. For patients who are not adequately vaccinated but who are established patients of RKC, we will follow the following guidelines
 - a. We will continue to educate parents about the benefits of vaccinations to their children and also the risk of not vaccinating against several childhood infections. Such counseling will be done mostly during scheduled Well checkups. VIS forms will be given to parents even though they decline vaccines.
 - b. Parents of such children need to remind the providers in this office or other providers in the community such as those in ER and Urgent care centers about the vaccination status of their children whenever medical care is sought for them.
 - c. Parents of these children must wait in their vehicles when such a child is brought in for evaluation of any illness.
 - d. 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 with regard to immunization. A discharge letter will be sent to these parents so that they can find another physician willing to take over care of their child.
4. 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.
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 and will then ask the family to find a different provider as stated in paragraph 4 d above.

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.