

# RAINBOW KIDS CLINIC

## ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY: **Vaccine Refusal**

**Rainbow Kids Clinic has a written process and defined standards and demonstrates that it monitors performance against the standards for Parents that refuse to follow the RKC Vaccine Policy.**

### POLICY

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 1<sup>st</sup> dose of MMR, 1<sup>st</sup> dose of Varicella vaccine and 1<sup>st</sup> 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. With regard to immunizations for children of ages 11 and above also, we recommend all of the vaccines recommended by CDC, AAP and ACIP. If parents decline either Tdap or Menactra (vaccine to prevent Meningococcal meningitis), 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 but if such a child is behind by only a shot or two, we are willing to work with those families to get caught up as quickly as possible. All kindergarten shots must be completed by the child's sixth birthday. Failure to do so will be cause for non acceptance to the clinic for new patients and termination from RKC for established patients.

5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.