

POLICY TITLE Patient Immunization Policy

APPROVED BY West Side Pediatrics Partnership

REVIEWED/REVISED 9/2024

PURPOSE:

To provide the highest quality preventative health care possible by vaccinating all patients according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommended vaccination schedule.

To create a medical home environment in which patients and primary care providers have aligned philosophies regarding patient vaccination.

To limit exposure of our patients, especially in the waiting room setting, to vaccine-preventable illnesses.

To increase herd immunity against vaccine-preventable illnesses in our community.

PHILOSOPHY:

All Primary Care Providers at West Side Pediatrics are committed to providing excellent preventative care to our patients. This includes providing recommended vaccinations according to the CDC and AAP vaccination schedule. Vaccinations in this schedule all prevent life threatening illnesses in children. The Primary Care Providers of West Side Pediatrics believe in the safety and efficacy of the childhood vaccination series. In some cases, such as immunocompromise or age, individual patients will be ineligible to receive certain vaccines, especially live vaccines, or vaccine components. In order to best protect all our patients, including our most vulnerable patients who fall into the aforementioned categories, it is important for all eligible children to receive the recommended vaccinations, not only to protect themselves, but also to increase herd immunity in our community, thereby helping protect the children who are unable to receive the vaccination themselves.

POLICY:

All patients of West Side Pediatrics, who do not have any contra-indications to vaccines, are strongly encouraged to follow the CDC and AAP recommended vaccination schedule without alteration. In the event of an alternative vaccination schedule, the following must be maintained to remain a patient of West Side Pediatrics.

1. Hepatitis B Vaccine (HepB), Diphtheria, Tetanus, acellular Pertussis (DTaP) vaccine, Inactivated Polio vaccine (IPV), Haemophilus influenza type B vaccine (Hib), 13 valent Pneumococcal vaccine (PCV-13), Measles, Mumps, Rubella vaccine (MMR), Varicella vaccine (VZV), Meningococcal ACWY vaccine (Menactra) and Tetanus Diphtheria and acellular Pertussis vaccine (TDaP) are all mandatory vaccines for patients of this practice and for school entry. Failure to

receive any of these vaccines in a timely manner will result in termination from the practice. Many of these vaccines are dosed in a series. Every effort must be made to receive all recommended doses before the patient reaches the maximum age for each vaccine or vaccine component. Patients need to start the vaccination schedule by 3 months of age. Once the vaccination policy has been addressed with a family, they will have until the next well visit, or until the next vaccine is due, whichever comes first, to begin vaccinating. If that does not occur, the family will be terminated from the practice.

2. Hepatitis A vaccine (HepA), Rotavirus oral vaccine (Rota), yearly Influenza vaccine (Flu), Meningococcal type B vaccine (Men-B) and Human Papilloma Virus 9 valent vaccine (HPV-9) and COVID-19 vaccine are all strongly encouraged vaccines. However, since these vaccines are not universally required for school entry, failure to receive these vaccines will not affect an individual's ability to remain a patient of West Side Pediatrics.
3. If a patient initiates care at West Side Pediatrics in an under-vaccinated state, every effort must be made to complete the Primary Care Provider's catch up vaccination schedule as outlined at the patient's first visit or first Well Visit with West Side Pediatrics. If the patient demonstrates a repeated pattern of failure to schedule vaccination follow-ups or failure to attend scheduled vaccination follow-ups, they will be terminated from the practice. Patients will need to complete catch-up vaccinations within one year of joining West Side Pediatrics.
4. In the event that a vaccine recommended by the Primary Care Providers of West Side Pediatrics is declined by a parent or patient, the parent or patient will be required to sign a vaccine refusal form indicating that they understand the risks associated with failure to receive the recommended vaccine. This applies to all recommended vaccinations.