

CARITHERS PEDIATRIC GROUP VACCINATION POLICY

Vaccines protect children and their families and friends from dangerous, life-threatening illnesses. Each childhood recommended vaccine has been thoroughly studied, approved and recommended by the Food and Drug Administration and Center for Disease Control. We recommend the following website to assist you as you learn about the benefits of vaccination: www.chop.edu.

It is important for you to understand our office policy regarding vaccination as you consider our practice. We follow the AAP-recommended vaccination schedule and do not recommend any other unproven vaccination practice. Our policy is based on the HEDIS guidelines that promote maximum protection when children are most susceptible to these diseases. The standards are supported by scientists and physicians worldwide and are required by most insurance companies in an effort to save lives.

The vaccines required by our practice to remain a patient of the practice are listed below. **Vaccines must be started by age 2 months.** If you cannot comply with the vaccination schedule listed below, we will regretfully ask you to seek medical care with another physician whose philosophy meets your needs better.

VACCINE	DOSE REQUIREMENTS
Hepatitis B	3 doses by age 18 months
DTaP-HIB-IPV	3 doses under age 12 months and one dose between age 12-21 months
Pneumococcus	3 doses under age 12 months and one dose between age 12-21 months
Rotavirus	Start by age 2 months and complete 3 doses by age 7 months
MMR #1	One dose by age 21 months
Varicella	One dose by age 21 months
Hepatitis A	Two doses by age 21 months with a minimum interval of 6 months between the doses
DTaP-IPV	One dose at age 4 years
MMR #2	One dose at age 5 years
Varicella #2	One dose at age 5 years
Meningitis #1	One dose at age 11 years
Tdap	One dose prior to 7 th grade entry
Meningitis #2	One dose at age 16 years

We understand that there are times when a guardian decides against a vaccine after it has been discussed with a provider and ordered by the provider. If the vaccine has been drawn up, the providers at Carithers Group will make every effort to utilize that vaccine for another patient following all guidelines regarding safe storage and handling. If the vaccine is unable to be used, the patient will be responsible to pay for the unused, discarded vaccines. The cost of the vaccine will be shared prior to checking out.