

VACCINE HESITANCY: REVIEW OF THE LATEST RESEARCH AND NOTES FROM THE FIELD

This article is the first in a new series addressing vaccine hesitancy. We'll share the latest evidence-based strategies, but we'd also like to use this section to answer your questions or share your suggestions about vaccine hesitancy. If you have ideas to share with other providers or questions we can help answer, we'd love to hear from you!

Since the Vermont Legislature eliminated the Philosophical Exemption to vaccination requirements for childcare and school attendance, the percent of children in Vermont meeting requirements has risen. However, pockets with low vaccination coverage persist and addressing vaccine hesitancy remains a challenge in our state.

On our recent Practice Satisfaction Survey, many of you told us about your experiences with vaccine hesitancy and how your practice handles it. We heard that you are sometimes able to change the minds of parents who are initially skeptical about vaccines. That's consistent with the findings of a recent paper. The authors found that even when parents initially refuse vaccines for their child, many change their minds when providers recommend them again at subsequent visits.

Many of you also described particular challenges related to acceptance of HPV vaccination. It can provoke different questions for parents than early childhood vaccines. Parents sometimes raise the concern that the vaccine will cause their child to become sexually active at a younger age. Several studies have examined this and all have found that there is no relationship between receiving HPV vaccination and the time of onset of sexual activity.

A recent paper showed that for HPV vaccination, a presumptive recommendation, where providers assume that the vaccine will be accepted, was more effective than a more open-ended, conversational approach. CDC recommends a "bundled approach," where you recommend the HPV vaccine in the same way and on the same day as other adolescent vaccines.

If you are looking for printable resources to share with parents, CDC has a recently-released, one-page parent handout that describes the importance of HPV vaccination, timing, and safety.

References

1. [https://www.academicpedsjnl.net/article/S1876-2859\(17\)30367-4/fulltext](https://www.academicpedsjnl.net/article/S1876-2859(17)30367-4/fulltext)
2. <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/130/5/798>
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