

# REDUCE MISSED OPPORTUNITIES TO VACCINATE

Raise the vaccination rate of infants by reducing or eliminating “missed opportunities to vaccinate” in your clinic.

## ***What is a “missed opportunity to vaccinate”?***

A missed opportunity for vaccination is defined as a healthcare encounter in which a person is eligible to receive a vaccination but is not vaccinated or not vaccinated completely. In other words, it means a child was in the clinic and did not receive all of the vaccines he or she was eligible to receive at the time or did not receive any vaccines.

## ***What causes missed opportunities?***

- Providers are not aware that a child is in need of vaccination (especially if the immunization record is not available at the visit);
- Nurses, physicians, and medical assistants avoid simultaneous administration of four or more shots during one visit, and sometimes, hesitate to give three injectable vaccines at the same visit;
- Providers may follow invalid contraindications.

## ***What can you do to reduce missed opportunities?***

When scheduling appointments, remind parents to bring their child’s shot record and provide parents with an updated shot record at each visit.

You need a complete record of the child’s vaccinations to properly assess vaccination status, so use the parent’s record and OSIS (Oklahoma State Immunization Information System) to determine which vaccines are needed.

Parents need a complete record so they can check on their child’s status, present it to schools and child care facilities, and take the record with them if they change providers or move out of state.

If you review the vaccination status of children at all visits you will reduce the number of missed opportunities.

If the patient doesn’t have a record card, give them one that contains their vaccination history.

You can provide parents with the *State of Oklahoma Official Vaccination Record* card which is available at no charge from the Oklahoma State Department of Health Immunization Service. This record card was developed with the input of parents and folds to credit card size for easy transport. It also shows parents the recommended ages for each vaccine. Call (405) 271-4073 to order a supply for your clinic.

Updated 3-24-16



For more information, contact your Immunization Field Consultant or the OSDH Immunization Service at (405) 271-4073.