

REDUCE MISSED OPPORTUNITIES TO VACCINATE

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

What can health care professionals do to reduce missed opportunities?

Administer all vaccines for which a child is eligible at the time of each visit. This is referred to as “simultaneous administration”. View the status screen in the Oklahoma State Immunization Information System (OSIIS) to help determine what vaccines a child is eligible to receive on a particular day.

Screen for and follow only true contraindications and precautions.

Is it safe to administer 5 or more vaccines during the same visit and are the vaccines effective?

Yes, administering 5 or more vaccines simultaneously (at the same visit) according to the recommendations of the ACIP, the AAP, and the AAFP, is safe, effective, and indicated. There is no evidence that simultaneous administration of vaccines reduces vaccine effectiveness, increases the risk of adverse events, or overwhelms the immune system. Children are at risk for the diseases at the ages when the vaccines are recommended. Delaying a vaccine leaves the child at risk. Simultaneous administration is especially important for children who are behind in the schedule because they might be at imminent risk for the diseases.

What if the parents refuse multiple vaccinations at a single visit?

Try to educate parents about the need for vaccines at the recommended ages: 1) the child is at risk of catching the disease, 2) the child has no protection and 3) multiple injections are safe.

- Provide parents with educational materials such as:
 - “Too Many Vaccines? What you should know” available in English and Spanish on the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia web site: <http://media.chop.edu/data/files/pdfs/vaccine-education-center-too-many-vaccines.pdf>.
- Refer parents to reliable information on the Internet, such as:
 - Vaccinateyourbaby.org: <http://www.vaccinateyourbaby.org/safe/index.cfm>.

Where can you find medically accepted contraindications?

- A *Chart of Contraindications and Precautions to Commonly Used Vaccines* is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/vac-admin/contraindications-vacc.htm>
- ***Use of false contraindications is a major contributor to missed opportunities.***
- Routine, systematic, screening using a standard form is one of the best ways to screen patients for true contraindications.
- Screening forms are available at: <http://www.immunize.org/clinic/screening-contraindications.asp>.

