

Pediatric Associates of Manhattan, P.A.

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Pediatric Associates Vaccine Policy Statement

- Vaccines have been proven to be effective in preventing serious illness and death related to certain diseases.
- Based on all available literature, evidence, and current studies, vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities. The benefits of vaccines far outweigh any perceived or unproven risks of harm to children.
- Vaccinating children and young adults may be the single most important health-promoting intervention we perform as health care providers, and that you can perform as parents/caregivers.
- All children and young adults should receive all of the recommended vaccines according to the schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and the American Academy of Pediatrics. The recommended vaccines and the schedule given are the results of years of scientific study and data gathering by thousands of scientists and physicians.

Because of vaccines, most parents today have never seen a child suffer from specific diseases such as polio, tetanus, whooping cough, bacterial meningitis, measles or complicated chickenpox. Such success can make us complacent about vaccinating. Unfortunately, as vaccine rates drop, certain diseases are reemerging with tragic results.

Deviation from the standard vaccine schedule goes against our medical advice as providers at Pediatric Associates. If you are considering a vaccine schedule that is different from the standard schedule, you would need to discuss this with your child's pediatrician. Please be advised that delaying or "splitting up the vaccines" goes against expert recommendations and may put your child at risk for serious illness or even death.

We will no longer accept the risk that unimmunized or under-immunized children or teens pose to other children and their families in our practice and in our communities. If, despite our best efforts, a child remains unimmunized or under-immunized, we will ask you to find another provider who shares your views on immunizations.

Please recognize that by not vaccinating, you are putting your child at unnecessary risk for life-threatening illness and disability, and even death. Please be advised that when we receive urgent phone calls after hours we assume that the children have received their routine vaccinations, and the provider should be notified if this is not the case. The advice and evaluation process is generally much more extensive for a child who has not received vaccinations.

We recognize that parents have many decisions to make regarding their child's medical care. Our desire is to do everything we can to protect your child's health as they grow and develop. A vital part of your child's health relies upon vaccines. We understand that the choice may be a very emotional one for some parents. We are happy to provide education and recommend resources for further information about vaccinating your child.

Our policy states:

1. All children must receive all vaccines recommended by the AAP that are mandated for school entry by the State of Kansas.
2. All children must begin receiving their immunizations at age 2 months.
3. We strongly recommend utilizing the immunization schedule as determined by the AAP, ACIP and CDC. "Alternative" vaccine schedules put children, adolescents, and adults at an increased risk of illness. There is no medical benefit whatsoever to delaying vaccines and this may put your child at risk of vaccine administration errors. Pediatric Associates will accept delays of vaccine administration only if they are within the "window" period of the recommendations of the AAP, ACIP and CDC.
 - a. If a parent or caregiver elects to limit their child to 2 vaccines at a time, they must come into the office at 1–2-week intervals to stay within the recommended "window" for the vaccines.
 - b. If a parent or caregiver elects to limit their child to 1 vaccine at a time, they must come into the office at weekly intervals to stay within the recommended "window" for the vaccines.
4. Exceptions for the AAP window include Hepatitis B, Hepatitis A, influenza and Gardasil.
5. Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B series must be completed as required by daycare or school entry.
6. The influenza vaccine is strongly recommended for all children 6 months and older.
7. The Gardasil vaccine series is strongly recommended for children, ideally between the ages of 11 and 13 years, but is not mandatory.
8. Families who do not follow the Pediatric Associates vaccine policy will need to find another physician to care for their child. We will care for your child for 30 days while you make this transition.

Our providers welcome discussion about our vaccine policy with any of our families. We hope that you understand that we have devised this policy in order to protect children, their families and our communities from serious diseases and potential death by administering safe and effective vaccines in a reasonable, organized and practical way.

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DNKA (Did Not Keep Appointment) Guideline

We strive to care for as many children as possible every day during clinic hours. You will be scheduled with your preferred provider, if at all possible. If your primary physician is not available, we feel confident that we can meet your needs with the help of another doctor in the group.

We would ask that you be on time to your appointment. If you need to cancel and/or reschedule, please let us know within 24 hours of your appointment. This will allow us to fill your canceled appointment with another patient and prevent you from being marked as a noncompliant patient. If you miss your appointment without letting the office know in a timely manner, your account will be flagged for a DNKA – Did Not Keep Appointment. If another appointment within your family is missed, you will be sent a letter with a copy of our policy. Upon a third missed appointment in your family without proper notice, you will receive a warning letter as a final notice. If you miss an appointment without proper notice after the warning letter, the physicians reserve the right to discontinue care for your entire family. Families with repeated missed appointments are reviewed for dismissal from the practice by the group.

We make every attempt to understand your specific situation, as long as you communicate with us, we will work with you to resolve missed appointments. If your family is dismissed, we will discontinue our relationship as primary care provider, and you will be asked to seek alternative care.



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Payments Due at the Time of Service

- All Office CoPays are due at the time of service
- Any out of pocket insurance costs are due at the time of service. We will estimate them as closely as we can.
 - Deductible that has not been met
 - Coinsurance that has not been met
 - Any costs associated with services for those patients who have no insurance coverage
 - Costs for services for any medical coverage that we are unable to file a claim and/or those that send the payment directly to the insured.
 - Outstanding balances from prior office visits

Thank you