

# **Parental Refusal of Immunizations**

**Policy Statement** 

## **NEW BERN**

703 Newman Road New Bern, NC 28562 T (252) 633-2900 F (252) 633-9609 Mon-Fri 8am – 5pm Saturday 8am-12pm Sunday 12 – 4 pm

### HAVELOCK

218 Stonebridge Square Havelock, NC 28532 T (252) 447-8100 F (252) 447-1900 Mon-Fri 8am-5pm

#### MAYSVILLE

P.O. Box 160 1004 Jenkins Avenue Maysville, NC 28555 T (910) 743-2022 F (910) 743-1283 Mon-Fri 8:30am – 5pm

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We at Coastal Children's Clinic are dedicated to providing the best care that we can for our patients. We feel to do this effectively we must enter into a partnership based on mutual trust with the parents of our patients so that together we can achieve this goal. Recently, there has been a trend of unjustified fear of side effects from vaccines by well-meaning parents. We believe that immunizations are one of the most important health interventions a parent can do on behalf of their children, and we want all of our patients to benefit from this modern lifesaving tool.

While we recognize and respect the parents' role as the ultimate decision maker for their child's healthcare, we believe strongly that we are obligated to deliver the best and safest healthcare possible for our patients and our community. We feel professionally uncomfortable caring for children who will not receive a minimal set of vaccinations. These preventable diseases can and do cause severe illness, brain damage and death. Although we strongly support all recommended vaccines, there are four series that we must insist that our patients receive in a timely manner to remain a patient in our practice.

The minimal four vaccines are: Diptheria, Tetanus and Acellular Pertussis (<u>DTaP</u>); Hemophilus Influenza Type B (<u>Hib</u>); Measles, Mumps and Rubella (<u>MMR</u>) and Pneumoccocal Conjugate Vaccine (<u>Prevnar</u>).

We hope that you take the time to read quality papers and internet sites about the benefits of vaccines. The best internet site for vaccine education can be found at <a href="www.vaccine.chop.edu">www.vaccine.chop.edu</a>, which is hosted by one of the finest children's hospitals in the country, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. The federal government also maintains an informative site at the CDC web site:

<a href="www.cdc.gov/vaccines">www.cdc.gov/vaccines</a>. Our providers and staff are pleased to answer any questions in person or loan you a videotape / DVD that was developed by The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

We hope that you will review the accurate information about immunizations here as well as on respected internet sites and consider allowing your child(ren) to receive this important protection. These and all other childhood vaccines are available through our office at modest cost, or through the local county health department at no charge.

As a group practice, we feel we must implement a consistent policy in regard to Parental Refusal Of Immunizations. Refusal of these four vaccinations indicates a significant difference of philosophy of care and it would be best that we terminate our doctor-patient relationship. It is our hope that no patient is discharged from our practice due to vaccine refusal.

2/26/2013