

Immunization Policy

OUR IMMUNIZATION POLICY

Chico Pediatrics firmly believes in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illnesses and save lives. We also firmly believe in the safety of vaccines. All physicians and staff provide vaccines on schedule to our own children. Our office follows the vaccine schedule (<http://www2.aap.org/immunization/izschedule.html>) outlined by the Center of Disease Control and the American Academy of Pediatrics which has been scientifically tested for safety and efficacy.

There is no such thing as a tested or safe “alternative” vaccine schedule. We will be happy to provide information to help you understand the science behind vaccines, but we have a commitment to our patients to keep them safe and provide the best pediatric care available. This includes vaccinations on time, according to the CBC/AAP schedule.

OUR IMMUNIZATION PHILOSOPHY

Our practice believes that all children should receive the recommended vaccines according to the guidelines provided by the AAP and the CDC. Vaccines are safe and effective in preventing diseases and health complications in children and young adults. Regular vaccinations help children ward off infections, and are administered as one of the safest and best methods of disease prevention.

As medical professionals, we feel very strongly that vaccinating all children on schedule with currently available vaccines is absolutely the right and responsible thing to do for all children. We believe that immunizations are one of the most important health interventions a parent can do on behalf of their children.

Chico Pediatrics follows the recommended childhood immunization schedule of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP). We feel the current immunization schedule provides the best medical care to prevent these diseases that can cause severe illness, brain damage and death. The current immunization schedule has been thoroughly researched and has been repeatedly found to be safe and to be the best way to prevent these illnesses in young children. Delaying these immunizations puts your child at risk for developing these illnesses and does not decrease or otherwise alter the mild side effects sometimes seen from these immunizations. The delay or refusal of vaccines has caused resurgence of these diseases worldwide.

We firmly believe that the current vaccines are safe and effective. Vaccines do not cause autism or developmental disabilities. Thimerosal is still a preservative in a few vaccines and has been shown not to cause autism or developmental disabilities nor an elevated mercury level in those patients who have received thimerosal containing vaccines. The previous concerns about the association of the MMR vaccine and autism has been refuted and multiple studies have shown this to be a safe and effective vaccine. Separating vaccines to give over additional visits goes against expert recommendations and is not supported by any scientific data.