



Sam Houston State University

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SHSU Physicians

Patient Immunization Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline SHSU Physicians' position on immunizations and to communicate our expectations and procedures regarding vaccination practices within our clinic. This policy is intended to support public health, ensure the safety of our patients and staff, and uphold professional standards of medical care.

Policy Statement

The doctors at SHSU Physicians unequivocally support the routine immunization of children and adults in accordance with the guidelines established by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Academy of Family Practice (AAFP), and the American College of Physicians (ACOP). Immunizations are a critical component of preventive health care and have been extensively validated through decades of rigorous scientific research and real-world effectiveness in reducing morbidity and mortality from infectious diseases.

Vaccination as a Public Health Priority

We consider the timely administration of vaccines to be a fundamental responsibility in safeguarding both individual and community health. Vaccination not only protects the patient receiving the immunization but also contributes to herd immunity, thereby protecting those who cannot be vaccinated due to age, medical contraindications, or immunocompromised status.

Respectful Engagement with Families

While the doctors at SHSU Physicians strongly advocate for full adherence to the recommended vaccination schedule, we recognize that some parents and guardians may have concerns regarding immunizations. Our providers are committed to engaging in respectful, evidence-based conversations with families to address these concerns, provide accurate information, and support informed decision-making. We affirm the



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importance of parental autonomy while maintaining our responsibility to promote practices that align with the best interests of our patients and the broader community.

Provider Discretion Regarding Unvaccinated Patients

In alignment with our clinic's core values and standards of care, individual doctors at SHSU Physicians retain the professional discretion to determine whether they will accept or continue to care for patients who are not fully vaccinated according to the recommended schedule. This discretion is exercised with the utmost consideration for patient safety, ethical practice, and clinical judgment.

Families should discuss the vaccination policy with their physician at the time of their visit. If a doctor or patient chooses not to continue care due to non-vaccination, efforts will be made to ensure a smooth transition, including the provision of medical records and referrals where appropriate.

Conclusion

The doctors at SHSU Physicians remain committed to promoting the health and well-being of all patients through evidence-based medical care. Vaccination is one of the most effective interventions in modern medicine, and we are dedicated to supporting its role in preventing disease and protecting public health. We welcome open dialogue and encourage all families to partner with us in prioritizing safe and effective immunization practices.

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