

Somerset Pediatric Group Immunization Policy

Somerset Pediatric Group is committed to providing the highest quality medical care to our patients. Vaccinating against debilitating and deadly preventable diseases is the single most important health-promoting intervention that our pediatricians perform. Vaccination against preventable disease not only prevents serious illness but saves lives. We firmly believe, based on all available literature, evidence and current studies that childhood vaccines are safe and effective.

Our physicians are all Board Certified by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Our physicians adhere to the vaccine schedule as recommended by the AAP, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and the Center for Disease Control. Although not advised, we will consider well thought out alternative schedules or “vaccine splitting”. But please be aware changes in the vaccine schedule may put your child at unnecessary risk. If you chose to split the vaccine schedule and have vaccine visits more often there will be an office visit charge for the vaccine only visits and a co-pay if requested by your insurance carrier.

Somerset Pediatric Group feels very strongly that adhering to our vaccine schedule is essential to ensure our ability to care for your child. Therefore, we will insist that all children start immunizations by 4 month of age. We will also have specific vaccine requirements that must be met by ages one, two and six. The requirements can be discussed with your physician.

Not following this schedule not only puts your child at great risk but also endangers others in our waiting room and the community who are too young or unable to be immunized. Because of this, children who do not meet these requirements will have their chart reviewed by the Somerset Pediatric Vaccine Committee. At that time you may be asked to find a healthcare provider who better shares your views about the lack of immunizations.

Vaccine preventable illnesses are on the rise in this country and around the world. We are making you aware of these facts not to scare you or coerce, but to emphasize the importance of vaccinating your child. We recognize that the choice may be a very emotional one for some parents. We will do everything we can to help you understand that vaccinating according to our schedule is the right thing to do. Please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns that you may have regarding vaccines or this policy with your physician. Thank you for your time in reading this policy.

For your information, the following list contains several websites with information regarding vaccines:

www.aap.org

www.cdc.gov/science/iso/concerns

www.immunize.org

www.vaccine.chop.edu

www.vaccinateyourbaby.org