

# Abilene Children's Medical Association, LLP

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## ACMA Vaccine Policy Statement

As professional healthcare providers specializing in pediatrics, we are committed to protecting the health and well-being of your children and our community. Providing routine childhood immunizations is essential in achieving that goal. Vaccines are one of the most helpful interventions in the history of modern medicine.

- Vaccines are safe and effective in preventing serious illness and saving lives. If this were not the case, we would not recommend vaccines for our patients, including our own children.
- All children and young adults should receive ALL of the recommended vaccines according to the schedule published by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics. This schedule is the only scheduled that has been studied for safety and efficacy.
- Based upon all available literature, evidence and current studies, vaccines do NOT cause autism or other developmental disabilities.
- Vaccinating children and young adults may be the single most important intervention we use as healthcare providers, and that you can use as parents. The recommended vaccines and schedule are the results of years of scientific study and data gathering on millions of children by thousands of the world's leading scientists and physicians.
- We are aware that there has been controversy surrounding vaccination. We ask that you keep in mind that because of vaccines, many of you have never seen a child with polio, tetanus, whooping cough, bacterial meningitis or even chicken pox. You quite possibly have never known a friend or family member whose child died of one of these diseases. That success can make us complacent or even question the need for vaccinating our children, but such an attitude may lead to tragic, preventable deaths, or devastating brain injury.
- We therefore emphasize the importance of vaccinating your child. We recognize that the choice may be emotional for you. We will do everything we can to show you that vaccinating is the right thing to do. Please feel free to discuss your concerns with your healthcare provider.
- **Lastly, if you choose to not vaccinate your children according to the CDC and AAP guidelines, we will ask you to find another healthcare provider who shares your views. Please be aware that by not vaccinating, you are putting your child and other children (such as those with compromised immune systems) at unnecessary risk for life-threatening illness, disability and death.**

**I acknowledge receipt of the ACMA vaccine policy statement, and understand that I will be asked to find another healthcare provider for my child/children if I choose to not comply with this policy.**

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Guarantor Name (please print)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name(s) of Children** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Guarantor Signature** \_\_\_\_\_