

### Policy on Childhood Immunizations

Carson Medical Group's priority is the health and well-being of our patients, their families, our staff, and the community. The physicians and health care providers at Carson Medical Group firmly believe in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives. Immunizations have been, and continue to be, one of the most researched medical practices in modern history. Immunizations are overwhelmingly safe. Simply, immunizations save lives.

Therefore, the providers of Carson Medical Group, in an effort to maximize the benefits of immunizations, while ensuring the health of our patients in a safe manner, require all patients to receive childhood immunizations according to the following guidelines:

- To receive the highest benefit of vaccinations, the providers strongly encourage families to vaccinate in accordance with the American Academy of Pediatrics' evidence-based immunization schedule.
- While a delayed schedule may be approved by your provider, immunizations must start by six months of entering the practice, and all children must be on schedule to be fully vaccinated within two years.
- The only approved exception to this policy is a medical contraindication to one or more vaccines as determined by the patient's healthcare provider.

We, the providers of Carson Medical Group, acknowledge and honor your rights as parents/guardians to make any and all healthcare decisions for your child(ren). We will not force you to immunize your child(ren) against your wishes.

If you cannot comply with this policy, we respectfully ask that you find a healthcare provider more apt to meet your preferences. We do not have a list of providers who allow immunization refusals. Further, we do not recommend a provider who does so.

If you would like more information on the safety and effectiveness of immunizations, or if you would like to research immunizations more, please schedule an appointment with a Carson Medical Group provider and/or visit these reliable and scientifically validated sources of information:

- American Academy of Pediatrics – [www.HealthyChildren.org](http://www.HealthyChildren.org)
- American Academy of Pediatrics – [www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org)
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia - [www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center](http://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center)
- Every Child by Two – [www.vaccinateyourfamily.org](http://www.vaccinateyourfamily.org)