

# Immunization

(February 2017)

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## Rationale

Immunization has the potential to either reduce or eradicate many infectious diseases, reduce the risk of complications from certain diseases, and improve overall health the world over. However, a rise in vaccine hesitancy has led to decreased immunization rates in developed countries.

## Key Objectives

The candidate must be able to assess the immunization status of patients and recommend an appropriate schedule of vaccinations, discuss with patients and parents/guardians the risks and benefits of vaccination, and identify patients in need of vaccination who do not come in for routine visits (e.g., when presenting for assessment of a new illness).

## Enabling Objectives

Identify patients needing vaccination, and for such patients the candidate will

- list and interpret clinical findings, including
  - a. an immunization history as well as any contraindication to vaccination (e.g., anaphylaxis, immunosuppression);
- construct an effective initial management plan, including
  - a. obtaining informed consent;
  - b. giving patients/parents the information they need to manage possible vaccine reactions;
  - c. outlining an appropriate vaccination schedule, including modifications to the usual schedule for special circumstances (e.g., catch-up schedules, immunocompromised patients);
  - d. advocating for vaccination based on currently accepted scientific data;

- e. counselling patients/parents who refuse vaccinations;
- f. reporting adverse immunization reactions, as required;
- g. reaching out to population segments specifically at risk (e.g., elderly people, people with chronic illness, people who have received transplants, people with asplenia);
- h. recognizing the importance of temperature regulation in the storage of vaccines to maintain efficacy.