



Carolinan HealthCare System

## Charlotte Pediatric Clinic – Older Child Vaccine Policy Statement

Dear valued patients and families,

We firmly believe in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives. We firmly believe in the safety of our vaccines. We firmly believe that vaccinating children and young adults may be the single more important health-promoting intervention we perform as health care providers and parents/caregivers.

Vaccines are so effective at preventing illness that many parents have never seen a child with bacterial meningitis or chicken pox or known a friend or family member whose child died of one of these diseases. Unfortunately, such success at preventing disease can make us complacent about vaccinating. But such an attitude, if it becomes widespread, can lead to tragic results and the re-emergence of preventable diseases.

In the pre-adolescent years, ages 10-12, it is recommended by the medical community and schools to give booster doses of varicella vaccine (if not done earlier), Tdap (pertussis and tetanus) and an initial booster dose of MCV4 (meningococcal meningitis). In addition, it is recommended, but not required, to initiate and complete the HPV vaccine series (human papillomavirus) between the ages of 9 and 26.

For new patients who are not vaccinated or incompletely vaccinated, we expect them to catch up on their complete vaccine series within the recommended time period of 12 months. By not vaccinating your child and boosting them in their pre-adolescent years, parents are putting their child and other children at unnecessary risk for life threatening illness, disability and even death as these diseases – varicella, meningococcal meningitis and pertussis – do occur each year in unvaccinated and under-vaccinated older children.

As medical professionals, we feel very strongly that vaccinating children and adolescents on schedule with current available vaccines is absolutely the right thing to do for all children and teens. If you do not comply with the require childhood and adolescent vaccines, we will request that you find another health care provider. Thank you for your time in reading this policy and please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about vaccines with your provider.

Sincerely,  
Your HealthCare Partners at  
Charlotte Pediatric Clinic