

Parent/Caregiver Information

Federal law mandates that before any child receives a vaccine, the provider is required to give a copy of the Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) for each vaccine to the parent or legal guardian. The Vaccine Information Sheets are handouts which provide information on the benefits and risks of each vaccine. These information sheets have been developed by a panel of experts working in conjunction with the CDC. The sheets are just part of the process to provide accurate information about vaccines to parents and guardians. In addition to these information sheets, providers should address any questions and concerns that the parents or guardians may have.

Providing this information is important.

- First, every parent and caregiver deserve to know accurately what the risks and benefits are for each and every vaccine.
- Second, it alerts parents and caregivers to potential reactions and may alleviate concerns about the seriousness of these events.
- Third, by providing the caregiver with accurate information on vaccine risks this helps maintain trust between the provider and the family.

VIS sheets are easily downloaded at no costs from the CDC website:

www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm

The manual has included the following three documents:

- Summary of the Vaccine Information Law
- FAQs about the law and VIS
- VIS instructions

VIS Information and Facts:

<http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2027.pdf>

*In addition to the importance of the distribution of Vaccine Information Sheets, parents and caregivers all deserve to be given accurate information regarding the relationship between vaccines and autism. In a study conducted and published by the Journal of Pediatrics, it is concluded that there is no causal relationship between vaccines and autism. The study looked at the amount of antigens received in a day of vaccination and the amount of antigens received from vaccines in the first two years of life and found no connection to the development of autism in children. This research used data from 3 managed care organizations in a group of

256 children with ASD and 752 children without ASD. A full copy of the study can be found here: <http://jped.s.com/webfiles/images/journals/ympd/JPEDSDeStefano.pdf>