



# LET'S TALK ABOUT VACCINES

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# Objectives

- Understand the meaning of Shared Clinical Decision-Making (SCDM)
- Differentiate SCDM from informed consent
- Learn ways to implement SCDM in practice
  - Example scripts for conversations and documentation

# Disclosures

- I have no financial relationships with the manufacturer(s) of any commercial products and/or provider(s) of commercial services discussed in this presentation.
- I am not trained in legal interpretation. This presentation should not be considered legal advice.

# New HHS Childhood Immunization Schedule

## Recommended for All

Diphtheria  
Tetanus  
Acellular pertussis  
*Haemophilus influenza*, type b  
Pneumococcal conjugate  
Polio  
Measles  
Mumps  
Rubella  
Human Papillomavirus (HPV)  
Varicella (Chickenpox)

## Recommended for High Risk

RSV\*  
Hepatitis A  
Hepatitis B  
Meningococcal B  
Dengue

*\*Note: any infants whose mother did not get the maternal vaccine are considered high risk and are recommended to get an RSV immunization.*

## Shared Clinical Decision-Making (SCDM)

Rotavirus  
COVID-19  
Influenza  
Hepatitis A  
Hepatitis B  
Meningococcal ACWY

# What is Shared Clinical Decision-Making (SCDM)?

- **A conversation or decision process between a health care provider and their patient (or parent/guardian) about a medical treatment or immunization**
- Some individuals will benefit from a vaccine
- Considers individual health circumstances, like
  - Age
  - Medical conditions
  - Access to healthcare
  - Potential for exposures

# What is informed consent?

- **“The process by which patients (or parents) are informed about the risks, benefits, and alternatives of a recommended treatment or procedure”**
- Medical, ethical, legal obligation
  - Must occur before every vaccine administration
- Goal:
  - Help patient have accurate and balanced view of benefits and risks of immunizations
- What it is not: overemphasizing rare or unverified risks

# Safety & Insurance Coverage

- Safety is NOT a consideration in SCDM immunization recommendations
- SCDM does not impact insurance coverage



# What does SCDM look like in action?



- There are many ways to engage in SCDM
- Short, long
- Many different settings:
  - At the vaccination appointment
  - Telehealth encounter
  - Phone call
  - Separate visit

# Who can engage in SCDM?

- Anyone who administers vaccines
- Including
  - Primary care physicians
  - Pharmacists
  - Specialists
  - Physician assistants
  - Registered nurses
  - Nurse practitioners



# Talking with Patients

- Announcement approach & strong recommendation  
*“Today, Chelsea can get her Tdap, HPV and Meningitis vaccines. These vaccines protect her against tetanus, whooping cough, 9 different types of cancer and meningitis, which is an infection of the layer around the brain.*

*Here are the VIS statements that describe the benefits and potential risks.*

*Do you have any questions?”*

# Talking with Patients

- Acknowledge, Encourage, & Align
  - Acknowledge how they're feeling
  - Encourage them to ask questions
  - Align yourself with the parent

*"I understand that you're wondering if your baby really needs a hepatitis B vaccine and that's perfectly normal. Are there any things you're particularly worried about?"*

*"Your baby is lucky to have someone who cares so much about him and wants to keep him healthy. I want to help you keep him as healthy as he can be."*

# Documenting SCDM

- Sample EHR Documentation for Vaccine Shared Clinical Decision-Making (e.g., dot phrase, smart phrase):

*The patient/caregiver and I engaged in shared clinical decision-making about the benefits and risks of the [Vaccine Type]. This included an opportunity for them to ask questions. No contraindication to vaccination was identified, and the patient/caregiver and I collaboratively determined the patient would benefit from vaccination. A [Vaccine Type] was ordered in the context of shared clinical decision-making and educational materials were provided.*

- Where applicable for patients with underlying conditions add:  
*The patient has \_\_\_\_\_ (indicate underlying condition or high-risk group).*

# Resources

- Champions for Vaccine Education, Equity, & Progress (CVEEP). Shared Clinical Decision Making for Vaccines. [https://cveep.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/CVEEP\\_SCDM.pdf](https://cveep.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/CVEEP_SCDM.pdf)
- Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). News & Views – Shared Clinical Decision-Making: What It Is and Why It Matters. June 17, 2025. <https://www.chop.edu/vaccine-update-healthcare-professionals/newsletter/shared-clinical-decision-making-what-it-and-why-it-matters>
- Common Health Coalition. Shared Clinical Decision-Making Guide on Vaccines for Clinicians. Updated January 12, 2026. [https://commonhealthcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/SCDM\\_Clinical\\_Explainer.pdf](https://commonhealthcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/SCDM_Clinical_Explainer.pdf)
- Panthagani, K. Shared decision-making, informed consent, and the rhetoric of false empowerment. Your Local Epidemiologist Substack: [https://yourlocalepidemiologist.substack.com/p/shared-decision-making-informed-consent?utm\\_source=publication-search](https://yourlocalepidemiologist.substack.com/p/shared-decision-making-informed-consent?utm_source=publication-search)



**THANK YOU**