



WHY CONSIDER NON-PUBLICLY FUNDED VACCINES?

Immunization has saved the lives of more babies and children than any other medical intervention in the last 50 years.

Each non-publicly funded vaccine is considered for a different reason. For example:

- HPV vaccine is prescribed because males can be vulnerable to the disease but this vaccine is not publicly funded for men in British Columbia.
- Meningococcal C vaccine (provided free for infants and in Grade 6 only) prevents just one of four types of meningococcal bacteria for which vaccines are available.
- Travel vaccines are given because travelers may be exposed to diseases that occur in other parts of the world.

Professional Resources

- The [BCCDC Manual Communicable Disease Control Immunization Program Section VII – Biological Products](#) is a useful resource for vaccine safety, benefits and risks, and schedules.¹ Section VII of the manual includes information about vaccines recommended but not free to children and others, as well as vaccines provided at no cost.
- The BC Pediatric Society is developing a series of fact sheets on the non-publicly funded vaccines for children in BC. The sheets will highlight disease incidence and characteristics, vaccines available and give take-away messages about the vaccine for parent discussions. The first fact sheet, Meningococcal Diseases Vaccines, can be found [here](#). Two additional resources, [Best Practices in NPF Immunizations](#) and [Make Prevention Contagious](#) are also available.

Resources for Physicians to Give to Families

The BC Pediatric Society has developed a series of downloadable resources:

- [Vaccine Information \(Trusted Websites\)](#)
- [Extra Protection Vaccines: Costs](#)
- [Extra Protection Vaccines: Insurance](#)
- [Extra Protection Vaccines: Access](#)
- [Meningococcal B Vaccine: What Parents Need to Know](#)
- [The Extra Protection Checklist[†]](#)

“Physician or nurse recommendation was a strong determinant of vaccine uptake as was belief in the safety and efficacy of (varicella) vaccine.”²



One of the most important questions on a parent’s mind about vaccines is:

“What is YOUR recommendation as a health care provider?”

[†] BCIC project materials

¹ BCCDC Manual 2013, *Communicable Disease Control Immunization Program Section VII – Biological Products*, <http://www.bccdc.ca/dis-cond/comm-manual/CDManualChap2.htm>

² Gustafson R, Skowronski DM. *Disparities in varicella vaccine coverage in the absence of public funding*, *Vaccine*, 2005;23:3519-3525. Retrieved November 23, 2014 from: http://www.researchgate.net/publication/7883027_Disparities_in_varicella_vaccine_coverage_in_the_absence_of_public_funding