

## Shared Clinical Decision-Making for Vaccines: A Guide for Vaccinators

### What is Shared Clinical Decision-Making for Vaccines?

A decision-making process between the health care provider and patient/caregiver about a vaccine, including discussion and consideration of individual benefits and risks.

### How to Conduct Shared Clinical Decision-Making for Vaccines?

Health care providers play a crucial role in the success of shared clinical decision-making. The goal is to ensure patients are informed, heard, and supported in making vaccination decisions that are right for them. In clinical practice, implementing shared clinical decision-making for vaccines means fostering open, informed conversation. Below is an example framework for conducting discussions about vaccines, based on clinical guidance and expert communication strategies.

1. Assume patient and caregiver are ready to vaccinate unless contraindicated.
2. Discuss contraindications to the vaccine or one of its components.
3. Discuss risks and benefits to vaccination per the Vaccine Information Statement (VIS).
4. If needed, counsel using motivational interviewing.
  - a. Connect with patient/caregiver by asking for their main concern about the vaccine.
  - b. As appropriate, note in patient's chart and follow up discussion about the vaccine at the next visit.

### Who can Participate in Shared Clinical Decision-Making for Vaccines in New York State?

New York State health care providers qualified to participate in shared clinical decision-making for vaccines are determined by our state's scope of practice regulations and include physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, nursing students under supervision of a nurse, pharmacists, and pharmacy technicians under supervision of a pharmacist.

### Now that the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends Shared Clinical Decision Making for many vaccines, do I have to do anything differently as a vaccinator?

No.

- Continue to practice as you did before. Health care providers already routinely counsel patients/caregivers about vaccines, and patients share in the decision to get vaccinated as part of generally accepted medical standards, even if the process is not always called or documented as 'shared clinical decision-making.'
- Providers in New York State are advised to recommend vaccines according to the American Academy of Pediatrics' 2026 immunization schedule. Please see letter issued by the New York State Department of Health and the New York City Health Department [here](#).
- Shared clinical decision-making for vaccines simply involves a discussion between a patient/caregiver and a health care provider (defined as a nurse, pharmacist, physician, etc., see

“Who can Participate in Shared Clinical Decision-Making for Vaccines in New York State”) about the risks and benefits of receiving a vaccine, which is a routine part of any vaccination conversation.

- Shared clinical decision-making does **NOT** require a separate medical appointment or a conversation with a doctor.
- Shared clinical decision-making does **NOT** require a parent to ask the health care provider for a vaccination.
- If vaccines are recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices under shared clinical decision-making, it may affect the way your electronic medical record (EMR) system reminds providers about what vaccines are due.
  - Work with your IT department and EMR vendor to ensure that vaccinations continue to be recommended at appropriate ages and time intervals according to the American Academy of Pediatrics’ 2026 immunization schedule.

### **Are Vaccines that Fall Under Shared Clinical Decision-Making Covered by Insurance?**

Yes. Most insurance plans pay for routinely recommended vaccines as well as those with shared clinical decision-making, under the Affordable Care Act.

### **Are Vaccines that Fall Under Shared Clinical Decision-Making Covered by the Vaccines for Children Program?**

Yes. The Vaccines for Children Program is designed to ensure payment for all vaccines on the childhood immunization schedule, including those that are recommended with shared clinical decision-making.

### **Does New York State Department of Health Recommend that Children Continue to Receive Vaccines, Despite Them Being Under Shared Clinical Decision-Making in the New Centers for Disease Control and Prevention immunization schedule?**

Yes. New York State recommends vaccines continue to be administered according to the American Academy of Pediatrics’ 2026 schedule. This evidence-based schedule recommends routine immunization for protection against 18 diseases, including RSV, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, rotavirus, influenza, and meningococcal disease.

### **Resources:**

- Common Health Coalition Shared Clinical Decision-Making Guide
- American Academy of Pediatrics 2026 Immunization Schedule
- Champions for Vaccine Education, Equity + Progress
- Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia Shared Clinical Decision: What It Is and Why It Matters
- Immunization Quality Improvement Tools - The Science of Effective Vaccine Recommendations
- Shared decision-making, informed consent, and the rhetoric of false empowerment