

## POLICY AND PROCEDURE Vaccine Information Statements (VISs)

Vaccine Information Statements (VISs) are information sheets produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). VISs explain both the benefits and risks of a vaccine to adult vaccine recipients and the parents or legal representatives of vaccines who are children and adolescents. Federal law requires that VISs be handed out whenever certain vaccinations are given (before each dose).

Copies are available in English and many other languages from CDC's website at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis).

**Purpose:** To educate adult patients or parents/guardians about the benefits and risks of any vaccinations(s) recommended for them.

**Procedure:** Provide a Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) when a vaccination is given. As required under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act (42 U.S.C. §300aa-26), all health care providers in the United States who administer, to any child or adult, any of the following vaccines – diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, measles, mumps, rubella, polio, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib), trivalent influenza, pneumococcal conjugate, meningococcal, rotavirus, human papillomavirus (HPV), or varicella (chickenpox) – shall, prior to administration of each dose of the vaccine, provide a copy to keep of the relevant current edition vaccine information materials that have been produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

- to the parent or legal representative\* of any child to whom the provider intends to administer such vaccine,

or

- to any adult<sup>†</sup> to whom the provider intends to administer such vaccine.

If there is not a single VIS for a combination vaccine, use the VISs for all component vaccines.

VISs should be supplemented with visual presentations or oral explanations as appropriate.

\*"Legal representative" is defined as a parent or other individual who is qualified under State law to consent to the immunization of a minor child or incompetent adult.

†In the case of an incompetent adult, relevant VISs shall be provided to the individual's legal representative. If the incompetent adult is living in a long-term care facility, all relevant VISs may be provided at the time of admission, or at the time of consent if later than admission, rather than prior to each vaccination.

### Record information for each VIS provided.

Health care providers shall make a notation in each patient's permanent medical record at the time vaccine information materials are provided, indicating:

- (1) the edition date of the Vaccine Information Statement distributed, and
- (2) the date the VIS was provided.

This recordkeeping requirement supplements the requirement of 42 U.S.C. §300aa-25 that all health care providers administering these vaccines must record in the patient's permanent medical record (or in a permanent office log):

- (3) the name, address and title of the individual who administers the vaccine,
- (4) the date of administration, and
- (5) the vaccine manufacturer and lot number of the vaccine used.



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### **Out-of-date translations**

The translations for some VISs on our website are from previously published English-language versions that have since been updated. Unfortunately, IAC is not always able to obtain translations as updates are issued. Please ensure that your patients receive information consistent with the current **English-language version** of the following VISs.