BEST PRACTICES IN COMMUNICATING ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINE WITH WOMEN OF CHILDBEARING AGE

1. INITIATE
   • Identify opportunities and strategies to respectfully introduce the subject
   • Establish an environment of trust and openness

2. UNDERSTAND
   • Encourage patient to share their thinking with open-ended questions
   • Use silence to demonstrate listening and encourage elaboration
   • Use prompting cues and questions to encourage elaboration
   • Validate the fact that the patient has questions
   • Invite patient to lead the discussion
   • Paraphrase & summarize concerns/objections once they’ve been shared
   • Show appreciation – thank the patient for sharing

3. ENGAGE
   Practice strategies to productively engage patients in learning about COVID-19 vaccination:
   ● Frame patient concerns about the vaccine as a positive opportunity for cooperative problem solving
   ● Respond nonjudgmentally to misinformation or inaccurate beliefs about the vaccine by refocusing on the patient’s underlying concerns
   ● Provide accurate information about the benefits of the vaccine
   ● Rephrase/summarize concerns
   ● Focus on patient’s underlying concerns, rather than debunking all misinformation
   ● Emphasize expert, professional obligation & personal credibility
   ● Emphasize shared goals and primary concern for patient
   ● Make a clear, overt recommendation
   ● Keep the door open for future discussions and opportunities

4. SUPPORT
   Establish a clear behavioral directive to support vaccination:
   ● Emphasize professional expertise and responsibility to advocate vaccination in the best interests of the patient
   ● Communicate sustained care and concern for the patient’s wellbeing
   ● Provide informational and other practical resources to assist the patient in following through with vaccination intentions
   ● Validate patient concerns
   ● Demonstrate empathy to challenges, but emphasize that they are not insurmountable
   ● Provide clear commitment and cue to action
KEY FACTS ABOUT COVID-19 VACCINES AND PREGNANCY/FERTILITY

Organizations including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, and The American Society for Reproductive Medicine recommend COVID-19 vaccination for people who are pregnant, recently pregnant, or trying to conceive.

**Risks of COVID-19**
- People who are pregnant or recently pregnant are at increased risk of severe complications¹
- COVID-19 infection during pregnancy increases the risk of preterm or stillborn birth²

**Safety of the COVID-19 Vaccine**
- Numerous studies support the safety of the vaccine for people who are pregnant³
- There is no evidence that COVID-19 vaccination increases risk of miscarriage⁴

**Benefits of COVID-19 Vaccination**
- Growing evidence suggests that COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy can protect infants from COVID-19 infection.⁵ In a 2022 report, 84% of infants who were hospitalized for COVID-19 were born to unvaccinated people.⁶
- Research suggests that protective antibodies produced by receiving the COVID-19 vaccine may be passed to an infant through breastfeeding⁷

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**
- CoVAXCEN COVID-19 Vaccine Information & Resources
- Greater than COVID Video FAQs about Covid Vaccines, Pregnancy and Fertility
- CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Vaccination While Pregnant or Breastfeeding

**REFERENCES**


VACCINE RIGHTS

If you are asked for documentation at a vaccine location, you can share the following.
Si se le pide documentación en un punto de vacunación, puede compartir lo siguiente.

I am here to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.
Estoy aquí para recibir una vacuna contra la COVID-19.

All eligible individuals can receive the COVID-19 vaccine regardless of immigration or insurance status.
Todas las personas elegibles pueden recibir la vacuna contra la COVID-19 sin importar el estatus de migración o seguro. Las personas no están obligadas a presentar un número de seguridad social o identificación del estado para recibir la vacuna.

Individuals are not required to present a social security number or state ID in order to get the vaccine.
Las personas no están obligadas a presentar un número de seguridad social o identificación del estado para recibir la vacuna.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services specifies the following:
El Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos de los EE. UU. especifica lo siguiente:

- COVID-19 vaccine providers may not ask individuals to provide documentation regarding immigration status.
- Los proveedores de la vacuna contra la COVID-19 no pueden pedir a las personas que proporcionen documentación sobre el estatus de inmigración.

- COVID-19 vaccination providers cannot charge vaccine recipients for the vaccine (which is provided free to enrolled providers by the U.S. government) or for any administration fees, copays, or coinsurance.
- Los proveedores de la vacuna contra la COVID-19 no pueden cobrar a los vacunados por la vacuna (la cual el gobierno de los EE. UU. proporciona de forma gratuita a los proveedores inscritos) o por cualquier tarifa de administración, copago o coaseguro.

- COVID-19 vaccination providers cannot deny vaccination to anyone who does not have health coverage, is underinsured, or is out of network.
- Los proveedores de la vacuna contra la COVID-19 no pueden negar la vacunación a toda persona que no tenga cobertura médica, que tenga seguro insuficiente o está fuera de la red.

- If seeking reimbursement from the HRSA COVID-19 Uninsured Program, providers are required to request certain information from the patient, including a Social Security Number and, if unavailable, a driver’s license/state ID number, solely to check if the patient has other health insurance.
- Si busca obtener un reembolso del Programa COVID-19 para No Asegurados del HRSA, los proveedores están obligados a solicitar cierta información del paciente, incluyendo un Número de Seguridad Social y, si no se dispone de él, un número de licencia de conducir/identificación del estado, únicamente para verificar si el paciente cuenta con algún otro seguro médico.

  - Patients are not required to provide this information
  - Los pacientes no están obligados a proporcionar esta información

  - Providers will still be reimbursed for eligible claims if they attest that they asked for this information, but it was not made available.
  - Los proveedores aún recibirán un reembolso por reclamaciones elegible si demuestran que pidieron esta información, pero no estaba a disposición.

Violations of these requirements are reportable to the Office of the Inspector General
Excepciones a estos requisitos son reportables a la Oficina del Inspector General.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
1-800-HHS-TIPS | TIPS.HHS.GOV