

provided that the child is healthy).

- Involve the parent in minimizing the potential adverse effects of the vaccine (e.g., administering an appropriate dose of acetaminophen 45 minutes before administering the vaccine [as warranted]; applying eutectic mixture of local anesthetics [EMLA; lidocaine–prilocaine] or LMX4 [4% lidocaine] to the injection sites before administration; following up to check on the child if untoward reactions have occurred in the past or parent is especially anxious about the child's well-being).
- Respect the parent's ultimate wishes.

Data from Coyer SM: Understanding parental concerns about immunizations, *J Pediatr Health Care* 16(4):193-196, 2002; Fredrickson DD, Davis TC, Bocchini JA: Explaining the risks and benefits of vaccines to parents, *Pediatr Ann* 30(7):400-406, 2001; Rosenthal P: Overcoming skepticism toward vaccines: a look at the real benefits and risks, *Consult Pediatr* 4(suppl):S3-S7, 2004.

To identify the rare child who may not be able to receive the vaccines, take a careful allergy history. If the child has a history of anaphylaxis, report this to the practitioner before administering the vaccine. Contact dermatitis in reaction to neomycin is not considered a contraindication to immunization. Evidence indicates that children who are egg-sensitive are not at increased risk for untoward reactions to MMR vaccine. Furthermore, skin testing of egg-allergic children with vaccine has failed to predict immediate hypersensitivity reactions ([American Academy of Pediatrics, 2015](#)).

Nurses are at the forefront in providing parents with appropriate information regarding childhood immunization benefits, contraindications, and side effects and the effects of non-vaccination on the child's health. Some suggestions for communicating with parents about the benefits of immunizations in childhood are provided in Family-Centered Care box ([Coyer, 2002](#); [Fredrickson, Davis, and Arnold, 2004](#); [Rosenthal, 2004](#)).

## Administration

The principal precautions in administering immunizations include proper storage of the vaccine to protect its potency and institution of recommended procedures for injection. The nurse must be