

CHILDREN'S HEALTH FORM AND IMMUNIZATION DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Why was my TB skin test not accepted?

- The correct way to document a TB skin test is to include site, date placed, date read, the measurement of reaction in millimeters and the signature of the provider.
- The reading needs to occur 48-72 hours after the test is placed in order to be accurately interpreted.
- If both dates are not provided, the 48-72 hour time span cannot be assessed. Historically, the result has been recorded as “negative” or “positive”, but in order to see if there has been a change in previous reactions the measurement is needed.
- Changes in the measurement can help facilities determine if an individual converted from negative to positive. This information must be reported.

2. Is DTaP the same as Tdap? No

- DTaP is the childhood version of the vaccine, Tdap is the adult version.
- DTaP is given to children under age 7. Tdap booster is given at age 11 and any time between 19 and 64.

3. If I had chicken pox, is that sufficient? No

- CMC requires either two doses of varicella vaccine or a titer/blood test showing immunity. Exception: If born BEFORE 1980, history of disease is accepted.

4. Will school records be accepted?

- NO to elementary and high school records
- YES to college student services and healthcare facility records.
 - Elementary and high school records have been found to be unreliable source for complete, accurate information and we have no way of knowing the credentials of the individuals who created the school records.
 - Records from Student Services at colleges and health care facilities are reviewed by health care professionals and usually contain the information needed. Summary health forms filled in by the student for college admission are not accepted as proof, even if signed by healthcare provider.
 - Records from state and national immunization data bases usually also contain the information needed. Records from health departments usually contain information needed. Records from physicians/pediatricians offices sometimes contain all the information needed. The signature or stamp of the provider is what is missing most frequently.

5. Why are CMC standards so strict?

- Our goal is to keep you, the student, safe while we do what we can to keep our patients and employees safe. Records for students and employees are reviewed according to standard nursing documentation practices and CDC recommendations.

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- The documentation we require is consistent with nursing practice. Health care providers are taught to document all medications given, and vaccine documentation should include date, type, lot number, site, and signature of person who administered.

Since 2012, Texas passed a state law regarding vaccine preventable diseases in health care workers who provide direct patient care. This law applies to other healthcare facilities as well as CMC. Perhaps our vigilance is due to the commitment that this organization makes to patient safety. Many of our patients are high risk since they may be immuno-compromised due to childhood cancers or transplant patients. A childhood disease such as chicken pox could place their life in jeopardy or even kill them. I hope you have a greater understanding of our concerns after you have completed your student rotation with us here at CMC.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

Have you included all *documents* to support what was written on Required Information Form?

- Tb skin test with **four** components: date placed, date read, measurement in millimeters (mm), even if negative/ 0 mm or current QFT with result or proof of positive test and x-ray
- Varicella (chicken pox): two doses of vaccine or immune titer/blood test with reference values
- Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR): two doses of vaccine or immune titer/blood test with reference values
- Hepatitis B vaccine: three doses of vaccine or immune titer/blood test
- Tdap: within 10 years
- Flu vaccine: for current 2015-16 flu season (September- May)

Note:

- Receipts are NOT accepted as proof of immunization
- Elementary and high school records are NOT accepted