GUIDE TO CONTRAINDICATIONS (VALID AND INVALID) TO CHILDHOOD VACCINATIONS

Parents are often blamed for poor immunization levels among children under age two; however, evidence suggests that the health care system must assume substantial responsibility for missed opportunities to vaccinate children. Missed opportunities occur when a child brought to a clinic for immunization is not vaccinated because of inappropriate contraindications such as a minor illness. Several conditions or circumstances that are often inappropriately considered contraindications to vaccination are listed in the table above, along with the conditions that constitute valid contraindications for each vaccine. This table incorporates the most recent information on contraindications for DTP vaccine. Four conditions previously considered absolute contraindications are now considered "precautions" by the Immunization Practices Advisory Council (ACIP).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine</th>
<th>Valid Contraindications</th>
<th>Invalid Contraindications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General For All Vaccines:</td>
<td>An immediate anaphylactic reaction following vaccine</td>
<td>Local reaction (soreness, redness, swelling) following a dose of DTP or MMR vaccine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DTP</td>
<td>Missed opportunity to vaccinate due to a minor illness</td>
<td>Moderate or severe febrile illnesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOPV</td>
<td>Mild acute illness with or without low-grade fever</td>
<td>Mild diarrheal illness or gastrointestinal tract disturbance in otherwise well child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPV</td>
<td>Current antimicrobial therapy</td>
<td>Convalescent phase of illness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMR</td>
<td>Prematurity: Same dosage and indications as normal, full-term infants</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIB</td>
<td>Recent exposure to an infectious disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>HBV</td>
<td>A history of penicillin or other nonspecific allergies or relatives with such allergies</td>
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</table>

**DTP**

- Encephalopathy occurring within 7 days of immunization
- Precautions:
  - Fever of >40.5 C (105 F) following a previous dose of DTP
  - Collapse or shock-like state (hypotonic-hyporesponsive episode) within 48 hours
  - Seizures within 3 days
  - Persistent, incontrollable crying lasting 2-3 hours, occurring within 48 hours of vaccination
- Temperature of <40.5 C (105 F) following a previous dose of DTP
- Family history of convulsions
- Family history of sudden infant death syndrome
- Family history of an adverse event following DTP immunization

**TOPV**

- Infection with HIV
- Pregnancy
- Known altered immunodeficiency (hematologic and solid tumors; congenital immunodeficiency, and chronic immunosuppressive therapy)
- Immunodeficient household contact
- Breastfeeding

**IPV**

- Anaphylactic reaction to NEOMYCIN or STREPTOMYCIN
- Tuberculosis or Positive PPD
- Pregnancy in mother of recipient
- Immunodeficient family member
- Non-anaphylactic reactions to eggs or neomycin

**MMR**

- Anaphylactic reaction following egg ingestion or to NEOMYCIN
- Pregnancy
- Known altered immunodeficiency (hematologic and solid tumors; congenital immunodeficiency, and chronic immunosuppressive therapy)
- Immunodeficient family member
- Recent (within 3 months) IG administration
- Infection with HIV

*The events listed as precautions, while not contraindications, should be carefully reviewed. The benefits and risks of administering a specific vaccine to an individual under existing circumstances should be considered. If the risks to the individual are believed to outweigh the benefits, the immunization should be withheld. If the benefits are believed to outweigh the risks (for example, during an outbreak), the immunization should be given.*