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Why parents under vaccinate their children and how can practitioners reduce the incidence of vaccination exemptions

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An extensive literature review and a meta-analysis of four case-control studies evaluated the effects of missed or late pertussis vaccine doses. The results confirmed that missed or late doses results in an increased likelihood of contracting pertussis disease. Further literature research shows an increased incidence of intentional undervaccination – parents are choosing not to vaccinate their children, resulting in an increased incidence of pertussis, measles and other vaccine-preventable diseases. This presentation will review the findings of this literature research including the following areas: 1. Why do parents choose not to vaccinate their children? 2. What are some examples of recent pertussis and measles outbreaks in the United States? 3. What are some of the arguments from critics of vaccine safety, effectiveness, and mercury content? 4. How can a practitioner respond to this criticism? 3. What are the requirements for claiming an exemption from vaccinations upon entry to schools? 4. How can this increasing incidence of exemptions be reduced? 5. What is the Position Statement of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society concerning personal belief exemptions? 6. What can be the role of the 2010 National Vaccine Plan in educating physicians, patients, and families on the role of vaccines in controlling vaccine-preventable diseases? 7. Where can practitioners find up-to-date information about vaccines suitable for the professional as well as parents?

Biography

Chad Rittle completed his Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) studies at Waynesburg University in 2009. Dr. Rittle also earned a Master of Public Health (MPH) from the University of Pittsburgh, Graduate School of Public Health, BSN from the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing, and a BA in Biology from St. Vincent College. Dr. Rittle's Doctoral Capstone "Pertussis – The Case for Universal Vaccination" was published in the October, 2010 edition of Journal for Specialists in Pediatric Nursing. He is also published in the July 2008 edition of AAOHN Journal – Maintaining Vaccine Effectiveness in Occupational Health Clinics. Dr. Rittle served as Community Health Nurse and Northwest District Epidemiology Manager for the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Most recently, Dr. Rittle served as Assistant Professor at Waynesburg University teaching RN-BSN and MSN level courses in the Nursing Program as a faculty member in the VANA (VA Nurse Academy) Program. He has also served as Air Quality Specialist for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and taught Nursing, Allied Health, Biology, Nutrition and Project Management at CCAC in Pittsburgh. This Fall Dr. Rittle will begin teaching at Chatham University in the Nursing Program and as administrator of the Pathways to Nursing Program – a joint effort between Chatham and the UPMC Shadyside School of Nursing.