

Talking to your adult patients about vaccination

Conversation tips

- Personalize the conversation for each patient to maintain connection and extent of information conveyed
- Explain the potential benefits and risks of each vaccination you recommend
- Inform patients of potential side effects and contraindications
- Solicit and welcome questions

Three common questions your patients may ask regarding the need for vaccination and answers you may consider

Q I'm in good health. Why do I need to be vaccinated?

A Some unvaccinated adults—even those in good health—may be exposed to and susceptible to some diseases that vaccines help prevent

Q Vaccines are for kids. Don't my childhood vaccinations last my whole life?

A No, you do not outgrow your need for vaccination

- Some vaccinations given in childhood may not protect you for the rest of your life
- New vaccines have been developed that were not available when many adults were kids
- People with advancing age may be at greater risk for some vaccine-preventable diseases and their complications

Q I never hear of the diseases anymore that vaccines are supposed to help prevent. Why should I get vaccinated?

A Many vaccine-preventable diseases have decreased over time. That doesn't mean they are gone, and unvaccinated people may still be affected by them

Consider each office visit an opportunity to discuss with your patient which vaccinations may be right for them.



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