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Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine

NAP Meningococcal B Vaccine Policy

The providers at Northampton Area Pediatrics want to inform the parents of patients ages 16 to 18 that there is a new vaccine available to prevent a very rare form of meningitis (a serious infection of the tissue around the brain). This disease, meningococcal B disease, occurs in about 1 in one million young adults. Because of the rarity of this disease, and because of some still unanswered questions about length of immunity and potential side effects of the vaccine, the American Academy of Pediatrics has not recommended this vaccine for all patients. Instead they have designated it as an optional recommendation. We have looked closely at the research regarding this vaccine and currently do not recommend it for most of our patients. For children who are at higher risk for this disease we do recommend the vaccine. Those children at high risk have specific immune deficiencies or do not have a functioning spleen. If you have any questions about this policy, or would like your child to receive this vaccine, please let your provider know and we would be happy to discuss and provide it.

