

Pearls from Breakout Session #5

Ethical and Disease Prevention Considerations Related to Alternate Schedules

- Dr Joan Robinson
- Usually highly educated parents, 2% completely refuse (US study)
- Alternate schedules Dr Sears, pediatrician holds a lot of weight , spreads over time (1/month) opinion vs. evidence
- Lots of myths, personal stories not based on facts
 - Based on bad or unexpected things that could happen vs. evidence

- Know the myths and how to refute them
 - Too many antigens
 - Pain will scar child for life
 - Those making guidelines profit
 - Aluminium is it the new mercury?!
- Lots of resources in BC to address these myths
- Parents want the best for their children

Ethical considerations

Dr. Dave Unger

Summary- not about finding the right answer but what are the right questions to ask...

A) General ethical considerations:

- Individual vs. Needs of Society- how to balance and respect personal autonomy
- “Harm principle” and “duty not to infect”

B) Ethical concerns of public health workers:

- Moral distress: “Have I done enough?”, how far do we need to go? Know that you have done your best.
- Resource allocation: Unfair burden of Alternative Schedules on a strained system.

Summary

A) Rightful parental authority vs. Children's interests (parents want the best for their child)

- To the parent the risk is real

B) Is there ever a role for child protection...?

C) Moral distress: recognize it, normalize it, seek the support of your workplace and colleagues, normal part of the job

- Accept and respect different values and ideas,
 - listen to parents, “help me understand your concerns?”
- Honest, open communication vs. aggressive confrontation
- How do you deal with a HCP who recommends a different schedules (i.e. CVP vs. PHN)????