

## Questions for providers

### **Introduction - Establishing background information about the provider**

- 1) Can you talk a bit about yourself and briefly present your job title? How would you introduce yourself to other colleagues?
- 2) What type of provider are you (probe: pediatrician, generalist, biomedical, CAM, etc.)?
- 3) How long have you been practicing medicine? In what year was your final exam? How long have you been practicing in your current position?
- 4) Do you follow any specific approaches to medicine and medical treatment?
- 5) What types of patients do you see and treat?

### **Questions about patient-provider interactions**

- 6) Do you recommend vaccinations to your patients? If so, which ones? Why do you recommend them?
- 7) If you do not recommend vaccinations to your patients, why not? Which ones do you not recommend? Why?
- 8) **Childhood vaccines:** Can you describe a typical vaccine consultation which involves young children's (less than 11 years old) vaccination-related decisions? Who is present? How do you inform parents/children about vaccinations? What is discussed? Who makes the decisions (probe: mother, father, child, provider decides for the parent, etc.)?
- 9) **HPV:** Can you describe a typical vaccine consultation, which involves adolescent patients' (between 11 and 14 years old) vaccination-related decisions for HPV? Who is present? How do you inform parents/adolescents about vaccinations? Do you broach sexuality? What is discussed (probe: sexuality, genital warts, cervical cancer, ear nose and throat cancers, anal/penis cancer)? Is there any difference when discussing HPV-vaccinations with a female or male adolescent? Who makes the decisions (probe: mother, father, adolescent, provider, school physician/authorities)?
- 10) In general, when it comes to vaccination-related decisions, who tends to make the decisions? (probe: mother, father, both, child/adolescent, provider, school physician/authorities)?
- 11) What are typical questions parents (mothers/fathers) have concerning vaccines for their children? (Probe: What kinds of questions do they have about childhood vaccinations? What kinds of questions do they have about the HPV vaccine? Anxieties/concerns?)
- 12) How do you discuss the consequences of vaccinating or not vaccinating children with parents? Can you give examples?
  - a. How do you discuss vaccinations with parents who wish to vaccinate their children? Do you have any examples? What are the key reasons for parents that come to you to vaccinate their children?
  - b. How do you discuss vaccinations with parents who are hesitant to vaccinate their children? Do you have any examples? What are the key reasons for parents that come to you not to vaccinate their children?
- 13) Do you try to influence parents' decisions regarding vaccination for their children? If so, how do you try to convince parents to follow your recommendations? What advice do you give? Do you have any strategies to influence parents' decisions?
- 14) Do parents generally follow your advice and recommendations regarding vaccination? Why or why not?
- 15) Have you ever excluded a patient from your practice/clinic due to his/her perspectives on vaccination? Can you provide an example? What happened during this consultation?
- 16) How much time do you usually have for the discussions with parents regarding vaccination? Do you feel that this amount of time is sufficient? How much time do you need? (Probe: would you like more or less time spent on the topic?)
- 17) Do you feel like you have been properly trained to discuss vaccinations with parents and children/adolescent? Would you like extra training? What should this extra training cover?

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### **Information about vaccination beliefs, practices, and recommendations to patients**

- 18) How do you feel about vaccinations?
- 19) Where do you obtain your information regarding vaccinations (probe: colleagues, Swiss/BAG recommendations, specific approach to medicine, Internet, medical textbooks, etc.)?
- 20) For you, is there a difference between immunity that has been acquired “naturally” (i.e. having been infected with a disease and surviving) and immunity acquired through the use of vaccines? What is the difference for you? Is one way better than the other? Why or why not?
- 21) What do you think about waiting to vaccinate children when they are older, (prompt: immune systems more mature, body integrity, causing injury, vulnerability, protected by mother antibodies)?
- 22) How do you feel about individualized vaccine schedules?
- 23) Do you think vaccinations should be an individual choice for families? Why or why not? Should considerations of community/public health (i.e. herd immunity) also play a role in vaccine decisions? Why or why not? (If needed, explain herd immunity: When a critical portion of a community is immunized against a contagious disease, most members of the community are protected against that disease because there is little opportunity for an outbreak.)
- 24) In your opinion, are people in Switzerland vaccinated sufficiently? Should there be a specific vaccination rate? (probe: higher rates, lower rates, fine as is, etc.)
- 25) Do you think vaccinations can have any benefits? What kind of benefits? Where do you get the information related to benefits? Do you trust these sources? Why or why not?
- 26) Do you think vaccinations can have any risks? What kind of risks? Where do you get the information related to risks? Do you trust these sources? Why or why not?
- 27) Do you think there are differences between different types of vaccinations? Are some more beneficial than others? If yes, which ones? Are some more risky than others? If yes, which ones?
  - a. **Recommended childhood vaccinations:** (Probe: recommended childhood vaccines in Switzerland: DTP-HIB-IPV; Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Haemophilus influenzae (meningitis), Polio; MMR: mumps, measles, rubella).
  - b. **Adolescent Vaccines: for HPV:** What do you consider when discussing HPV with your patients? (probe: Do you have different advice for males and females? What does the vaccine protect against? How new the vaccine is? Not knowing the side effects or long-term effects? Did you consider the preventative aspects for sexually transmitted infections? earlier onset of sexual activity, more partners, more unprotected sex because the vaccine “protects”, etc. Does that influence your advice? Why or why not?)
- 28) Is there anything that could prompt you to change your beliefs about vaccinations for your patients?

### **Concluding Questions**

- 29) To conclude, what are the most important considerations regarding vaccines?
- 30) Is there anything that you could recommend to improve upon how vaccines are currently administered in Switzerland? If so, what would you recommend?
- 31) Would you like to make any clarifications about anything we discussed? Would you like to add anything that we did not discuss? Do you have any questions?