

Informed Consent A Parenting Column, By Denize Verduzco

What if I told you there was more to the Childhood Vaccine Schedule than what you are being told? What if I told you that most doctors and physicians across the country have failed to disclose the safety of childhood vaccines? The answers to those questions are what drove Candance Owens to create a documentary called, *The Shot In The Dark*, which can be found on Parler. A documentary consisting of 11 episodes, which outline the history of every childhood vaccination on the schedule. Through the analysis of medical data, statistics, interviews with doctors, and verbiage found on vaccine inserts – Candace presents a very compelling case behind the truth and safety of vaccines. Furthermore, through her advocacy, she brings awareness to the fundamental right of patients – informed consent.

According to the National Library of Medicine, informed consent is the process in which a health care provider educates a patient about the risks, benefits, and alternatives of a given procedure or intervention. If a patient is a minor, then the parent must grant informed permission based off the same process.

Vaccines, according to the National Library of Medicine, are defined as a minor medical procedure. Therefore, shouldn't this procedure, like all other medical procedures follow the same suit? Shouldn't their lack of testing, questionable ingredients, and possible side effects such as death, be openly discussed? This now raises the question, why aren't more doctors being transparent during wellness visits when advocating or administering vaccines? Why aren't both sides of the scale being disclosed? Furthermore, why aren't doctors providing parents with the manufacturer's package insert so they may openly review and discuss any concerns? While only doctors or physicians can answer those questions, it is time for parents to start asking them.

When making informed decisions regarding the vaccination schedule, there are a few things we must start to understand. First, vaccine manufacturing companies are released from any liability relating to vaccine injuries. Therefore, vaccine manufacturing companies cannot be sued directly if you or your child are harmed by any of the vaccines. Furthermore, parents must realize that a vaccine like Vitamin K, which is administered at birth, contains a black box warning label which can be found in the manufactures package insert. A black box warning label is the strictest and most serious type of label given by the FDA. In addition, vaccine inserts clearly state that they have not been evaluated for cancer causing organisms, DNA mutations or fertility impairment. According to the October 1, 2021 [Data & Statistics report](#) from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the total compensation awarded under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP) has now surpassed \$4.6 billion. In other words, vaccine injuries are real, and more awareness should be brought to those injuries.

Candace Owens, also sheds light on the push back that parents have encountered when declining vaccines over their children. Parents are starting to feel hesitant and unsettled with the increase of vaccinations being put on the schedule and rightfully so. In 1962, by the age of 18, children were only required to have a total of 5 doses. Fast forward to 2022, the number has risen to well over 75 doses. While more vaccines continue to be manufactured and added to the schedule, there must be intentional dialogue between health care providers and patients. Informed Consent can only come about when both risks and rewards are disclosed

equally and unbiasedly. Every patient has the right to assess a medical decision without being coerced, harassed, or threaten. Too often it is forgotten that doctors work for their patients and not the other way around. Patients have every right to ask questions to obtain a better understanding of their medical care. Most importantly, parents have every right to decide what they want their kids injected with – without fear of government interference. Whatever way you are swayed, whether it be to get vaccinated or not – the most important thing is that you can make an informed decision which leads to informed consent. Till next time.... Denize Verduzco