

August 2022 ~ Resource #380805

Vaccine Adherence: Addressing Myths and Hesitancy

Determining which vaccines are appropriate for your patient is based on several factors (e.g., age, health conditions, lifestyle). Patient fears, myths, and scheduling may be barriers to vaccine adherence. Use this checklist to improve vaccination rates, increase adherence, and overcome barriers.

Goal	Suggested Approach
Identify candidates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Ask about vaccine history. For example, you can ask:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ “Which vaccines have you received?”○ “When was your last tetanus shot?”<input type="checkbox"/> Use these tools to stay current on available vaccines and the latest recommendations for all age groups:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ US: https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/index.html. There are also online quizzes to determine needed vaccines:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Adults: What Vaccines Do You Need? (https://www2a.cdc.gov/nip/adultimmsched/).<input type="checkbox"/> Children and adolescents: What Vaccines Does Your Child Need? (https://www2.cdc.gov/vaccines/childquiz/)○ Canada: https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/provincial-territorial-immunization-information.html<input type="checkbox"/> When available, review immunization registry data to determine which vaccine(s) a patient may need.<input type="checkbox"/> Develop strategies to identify eligible patients. Consider patient ages and chronic medical conditions. For example:^{1,2}<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Help parents stay on track with childhood vaccinations for infants and young children.○ Adolescents may need the human papilloma virus (HPV) and meningitis vaccines.○ Elderly patients may be candidates for the pneumococcal or zoster vaccines.○ Patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), diabetes, or heart disease may need a pneumococcal vaccine.○ Make sure ALL patients six months and older, including pregnant women, receive a flu vaccine yearly.<input type="checkbox"/> Be familiar with and follow policies for giving vaccines to minors with and without parental consent.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ US: individual state laws can be found at https://www.vaxteen.org/consent-laws-by-state.○ Canada: check for provincial age of consent requirements, as ages may vary among provinces.
Address hesitancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Ask about vaccine hesitancy. For example, you can ask, “What keeps you or your child from getting a recommended vaccine?”<input type="checkbox"/> Infants: Ease fears about the number of vaccines infants receive at one time. Evidence suggests that a healthy child’s immune system will NOT be damaged or overwhelmed by receiving multiple vaccines at once.³<input type="checkbox"/> Adolescents: Reassure that the HPV vaccine does NOT increase sexual promiscuity or sexually related outcomes (e.g., pregnancy).⁴<input type="checkbox"/> Adults: Educate that vaccines not only prevent infections, but also significant infection-related complications.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ For example, the flu vaccine lowers the risk of flu-related complications (e.g., hospitalizations).⁵

Ease fears about unfounded myths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ask about fears and questions. For example, you can ask, “What fears or questions do you have because of things you have heard about vaccines?” <input type="checkbox"/> Remind patients that the flu vaccine may cause mild malaise or flu-like symptoms, but it does NOT cause the flu.⁶ <input type="checkbox"/> Tell patients that they can’t believe everything they see on the internet about vaccines, as some of the information is false. But reassure them that studies consistently show that vaccines (even old ones that had thimerosal) DO NOT cause autism.⁷ <input type="checkbox"/> Some prefer natural immunity over vaccines. It is not worth the risk, especially for some infections. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stress the risks and complications of disease. For example <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Severe allergic reactions to the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine occur in about 1 in 1,000,000 doses. But, about one in 1,000 patients infected with measles will die.^{8,10} <input type="checkbox"/> In adults, data suggest that COVID-19 vaccine-induced immunity protects against reinfection five times better than a previous COVID-19 infection.⁹
Improve adherence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Use strong endorsements. <input type="checkbox"/> Consider using an “opt-out” approach instead of an “opt-in” approach. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some data suggest proactively scheduling appointments for patients (opt-out approach) to receive a vaccine increases vaccination rates compared to notifying patients that vaccination appointments can be made (opt-in approach).¹¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Personalize the conversation. Share that you vaccinate your kids. Ask if they were vaccinated when they were young. <input type="checkbox"/> In the US, encourage booking future vaccine doses with the first dose. Enroll patients in reminder programs (e.g., calls, texts). <input type="checkbox"/> In Canada, follow school vaccination programs (where available) to ensure required vaccines are received on schedule. <input type="checkbox"/> Suggest coordinating care with other providers who offer vaccines (e.g., pharmacies, other medical appointments).

Users of this resource are cautioned to use their own professional judgment and consult any other necessary or appropriate sources prior to making clinical judgments based on the content of this document. Our editors have researched the information with input from experts, government agencies, and national organizations. Information and internet links in this article were current as of the date of publication.

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Cite this document as follows: Clinical Resource, Vaccine Adherence: Addressing Myths and Hesitancy. Pharmacist's Letter/Prescriber's Letter. August 2022. [380805]

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New Drug

Ferric Maltol (Accrufer)

Why it matters:



Ferric maltol is the first oral iron supplement for adults with iron deficiency that requires a prescription.

What else to know:



It avoids stomach absorption since it's bound to maltol, a natural sugar, that breaks down in the small intestine rather than the stomach. This may improve absorption and help improve iron stores in patients with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and chronic kidney disease, who typically have anemia and a poor response to most oral iron supplements.

Manufacturer	Kye Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Approved use	Iron deficiency anemia in adult patients who are unresponsive or intolerant to other oral iron preparations.
Approval date	August 21, 2024
Anticipated availability	First quarter 2025
Dosage and administration	30 mg po bid, morning and evening, on an empty stomach.
Storage requirements	Room temperature at 15°C to 30°C
Prescribing information	Ferric Maltol Product Monograph





New Drug

Ferric Maltol (Accrufer)

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