

Position statement

Meningococcal vaccine: Position statement of the Society for Adolescent Medicine

Prepared by: Amy B. Middleman, M.D., M.P.H, M.S.Ed.^a, Vaughn I. Rickert, Psy.D.^b, and Susan L. Rosenthal, Ph.D.^c

^a*Adolescent Medicine and Sports Medicine Section, Department of Pediatrics, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas*

^b*Heilbrun Department of Population and Family Health, Columbia University, New York, New York*

^c*Division of Adolescent & Behavioral Health, Department of Pediatrics, Sealy Center for Vaccine Development, University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, Galveston, Texas*

The incidence of meningococcal disease peaks during the neonatal years and again during the adolescent years. Most adolescent cases are vaccine preventable using the current tetravalent meningococcal vaccines. In February 2005, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended routine immunization with the tetravalent conjugate meningococcal vaccine of all 11–12-year-olds, with the interim recommendation including all 14–15-year-

olds, and special targeted populations to include incoming college freshmen living in dormitories, military recruits, certain travelers, microbiologists working with *Neisseria meningitidis*, and those with terminal complement component deficiencies and asplenia. The Society for Adolescent Medicine strongly supports the ACIP recommendations and encourages vaccination of all youth who are 11 years of age or greater with the tetravalent conjugate meningococcal vaccine.