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)?