

POMONA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Varicella Protocol
Clinical History Validation

Definition:

Health Care Provider-verified History of Prior Clinical Varicella:

This involves taking a history from the parent/guardian and as a result being reasonably certain the child had chickenpox disease.

Clinical features of varicella in children:

Illness typically lasts about 5-7 days.

Incubation period is between 10-21 days.

Prodrome of fever, malaise and anorexia.

Rash consists of crops of red papules and vesicles progressing rapidly to crusted lesions (“scabs”), start on the trunk, spreading peripherally, all stages of development of skin lesions seen at once.

Other features, which, while not definitive, can help with the decision:

Pruritic rash/vesicles/scabs

Fever present (usually low-grade in infants and young children).

History of contact with other “chickenpox” cases around at the time.

Varicella more common in mid-winter through spring (January - May), though can occur any time.

Note: If uncertain about the clinical varicella illness history, immunize. There is no risk from varicella immunizations for persons who are already immune.

Subjective Data:

History of previous varicella vaccination with documentation of vaccination.

Parent relates previous history of chickenpox. Use attached assessment for validating clinical history of varicella disease.

Objective Data:

Inspect skin for scars consistent with current or past varicella disease.

Assessment:

Validated history of varicella disease and/or visible varicella scars.

Plan:

Diagnosis based on history and exam

Treatment Plan:

Documenting clinical history of chickenpox on immunization record:

On the child’s immunization card, for varicella, write in “had disease” or check the “had disease” box.

Legibly, add your name, School Nurse, Pomona Unified School District.