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# Factors Effecting Parental Decision Making in Measles, Mumps, and Rubella Determination: An Integrative Review of the Literature

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## Background

Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) are diseases that can be vaccinated against but have had a recent increase in incidence. The vaccination is not mandatory, allowing parents to decide whether or not to vaccinate their child. Health decision-making is multifaceted including many sources of information and factors that surround it. This complicates decision making especially regarding the MMR vaccination.

## Conceptual Framework

The Health Belief Model framework consists of three major categories including individual beliefs, modifying factors, and the likelihood of action. This served to explain how people make health related decisions.

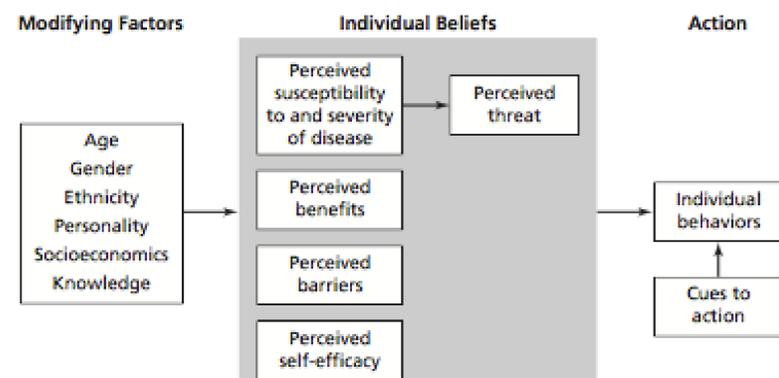


Figure 1: Health Belief Model Conceptual Framework

## Research Questions

What factors influence a parent's decision to vaccinate their child with the MMR vaccine? How does the appraisal of information and the factors that surround information about the MMR vaccination affect the decision-making process?

## Methods

A search from CINAHL Complete and PsychINFO, where the terms vaccination, decision making, and MMR were used, yielded 15 unique articles after exclusion criteria was applied. Articles were evaluated and the Health Belief Model was used to identify factors that effect decision-making.

## Results

Main themes that were drawn from the literature include general safety concerns, risks of the disease, individualized factors of the child, and many aspects surrounding healthcare professionals. These factors can be either negative, causing a rejection of the vaccine, and positive, causing engagement, depending on the parents' interpretation.

Factor	Number of Articles
Factors Surrounding the Healthcare Professional	13
General Vaccine Safety Concerns	9
Health of the Child including Natural Immunity	7
Media and Internet Coverage	7
Healthcare's Financial Incentives	6
Personal Experiences	6
Treatability of MMR	6
Logistics	5
Socioeconomic Status	5
Parental Responsibility for Herd immunity	4
Parental Responsibility for Child	3

Table 1: Factors influencing parents' decision to vaccinate their child with the MMR vaccine

## Conclusion

The most prevalent factor in influencing a parents' view on the MMR vaccination involves the healthcare provider and the relationship that is formed. When a trusting relationship is formed with a child-centered focus parents have more intention to vaccinate their child. Socioeconomic status and education have an inverse relationship with vaccine intentions indicating that an increase in recourses provides a more vaccine critical view.

## Nursing Implications

This information can be used by healthcare professionals allowing them to be more aware of the role that they play within the decision making process for parents. This can allow them to provide comprehensive information to parents regarding vaccination with the MMR vaccine.

## Future Research

Future research should be aimed at pairing the parents' views and what they identify as factors with their final decision regarding the MMR vaccine. This would allow the behavior to be studied in congruence with the parents' appraisal of information.

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