



Intact Care Agreement for Healthcare Providers

This agreement is between _____, the Healthcare Provider(s) to my/our son, _____, and his parent(s)/legal guardian(s), _____.

This document exists as a preventative measure. It is not meant to single out any one person, but to relay my/our wishes and concerns to all healthcare providers who treat my/our son.

In providing health care for the above-named person, the healthcare provider(s) listed above acknowledge(s):

This child is NOT circumcised. Since routine infant circumcision is not medically necessary, nor is it recommended by any pediatric or other major medical organization in the world, the child’s parent(s) made the intentional choice to keep him intact.

The intact penis of a child should not be retracted. The proper care of the intact penis is to “clean what is seen” and to wipe the outside of the penis like you would a finger.

- The foreskin is fused to the glans of the developing penis and serves a protective function during infancy/childhood.¹
- The average age of foreskin retraction is approximately 11 years old²⁻³ and it occurs as a result of the natural rise in adolescent hormones and self-exploration.
- The foreskin is self-cleaning prior to sexual maturity and must never be retracted by anyone other than the boy himself.⁴
- Forced retraction can result in irreparable damage to the penis by tearing the balano-preputial lamina, resulting in iatrogenic adhesions, bleeding, infections, skin bridges and scar tissue.

Pathological phimosis is not a valid diagnosis in prepubescent boys whose only symptom is non-retractability. True phimosis can only be diagnosed when a child is unable to pass urine or a post-pubescent man is unable to retract his foreskin and feels discomfort during sexual activity. Even then, a steroid cream and gentle stretching exercises can be prescribed before resorting to circumcision.⁵⁻⁷ Retraction of the foreskin is only necessary for hygiene in an older boy/teen/man who has retracted himself. It is never needed in order to maintain proper hygiene in children whose foreskins are not naturally retractable³, and prematurely forcing retraction can cause damage and harm.

“I have read the above information and fully understand what I have read. I agree to what is written herein and will adhere to the above guidelines. If I do not, I will be guilty of forced retraction, violating the instructions of the parent(s), and putting a child at risk for damage and infection.”

Healthcare Provider Signature: _____ Date: _____
Parent(s) Signature(s): _____ Date: _____

¹ Arey L. Developmental anatomy, 4th edn. Philadelphia. W B Saunders, 1941:301
² Kayaba H., et al. (1996). Analysis of shape and retractability of the prepuce in 603 Japanese boys. *J Urol*, 156(5), 1813-5. The authors found that by ages 8-10, only 42% of boys were retractable, and by 11-15, this had increased to 62.9%.
³ Thorvaldsen MA, Meyhoff H. Patologisk eller fysiologisk fimose? *Ugeskr Læger* 2005; 167(17):1858-62
⁴ Care of the Uncircumcised Penis: Guidelines for Parents (pamphlet). Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics, 1984
⁵ Beaugé M. The causes of adolescent phimosis. *Br J Sex Med* 1997; Sept/Oct: 26
⁶ Dunn HP. Non-surgical management of phimosis. *Aust N Z J Surg* 1989;59(12):963
⁷ Orsola A, Caffaratti J, Garat JM. Conservative treatment of phimosis in children using a topical steroid. *Urology* 2000;56(2):307-10

