

# ABSTRACT

The compulsory vaccination of children has lately become a very actual and frequently discussed topic in the Czech Republic. The public opinion about the compulsory vaccination divide parents on two different groups which are presented by the opinion for or against the vaccination.

In my thesis I tried to present the opinion of parents with the different view on the compulsory vaccination. The thesis mainly focuses on the decision-making process by parents. I try to describe how they perceive the compulsory vaccination of their children and what their experience with it is, and how they consequently decide about the realization, changes and rejection of the compulsory vaccination. The main research issue of my work is: What steps parents take when making opinion about the compulsory vaccination and what is happening with parents who decide for or against vaccination.

In the theoretical part of my thesis I concentrate on the description of the history of the compulsory vaccination, on the development of system of the vaccination in our country and in the world, on the vaccination schemes and vaccines, the list of vaccinated diseases, the functions of immune system, the model of distribution and payment for the vaccines, the criticism with arguments for and against the vaccination. I summarize the description of legal standards and their perception by the public.

In the empirical part of my thesis I introduce the used methodology of the qualitative research which is mainly represented by the dialogues with parents. Subsequently, I strive to find out their opinion. I try to find out how they decide and what leads them towards the final decision. In the first stage parents considered all possibilities

On the basis of the research the process of the decision making, as well as the aspects influencing the opinion of parents with different view on the compulsory vaccination were described. The decision making process was mostly divided into two stages. In the first stage parents considered their possibilities leading to postponing the compulsory vaccination in order to get all needed information or to adjust to the actual health state of their child. At this point a space for the intervention from the side of healthcare workers was opened, leading to clearing the benefits and risks of the compulsory vaccination. The second stage presented the final mutual decision of parents after considering all the alternatives for and against the vaccination.

**Key words: parents, vaccination, vaccine, healthcare policy, medicine and health.**