



Charlie Crist  
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.  
Secretary of Health

February 27, 2007

Nicole Blythe

[REDACTED]  
Stuart, Florida [REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Blythe:

Thank you for your January 8 letter to former Governor Jeb Bush expressing your position regarding male circumcision. I have been asked to respond on behalf of the Department of Health.

Male circumcision is a clinical practice issue and parent decision, most practice issues are governed by the clinical practice guidelines of care for medicine. In the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), *Circumcision Policy Statement* it is stated, "Existing scientific evidence demonstrates potential medical benefits of newborn male circumcision; however, these data are not sufficient to recommend routine neonatal circumcision. In circumstances in which there are potential benefits and risks, yet the procedure is not essential to the child's current well-being, parents should determine what is in the best interest of the child. To make an informed choice, parents of all male infants should be given accurate and unbiased information and be provided the opportunity to discuss this decision. If a decision for circumcision is made, procedural analgesia should be provided."

Therefore, the AAP recommends physicians discuss the potential harms and benefits of circumcision with all parents or legal guardians considering this procedure for their newborn son.

Thank you again for your thoughts regarding male circumcision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Annette Phelps".

Annette Phelps, A.R.N.P., M.S.N.  
Director  
Division of Family Health Services

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