

NSW Pharmacist Vaccination Standards

An authorised pharmacist in NSW may administer the following vaccines:

- Influenza vaccine
- Measles – mumps – rubella combination vaccine (MMR)
- Diphtheria – tetanus – pertussis combination vaccine (dTpa)

A registered pharmacist initiating and administering a vaccine under his/her own authority to a person aged 16 years or older in a NSW retail pharmacy must comply with the following three components of clause 48A of the NSW *Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008* (available at

<http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/maintop/view/inforce/subordleg+392+2008+cd+0+N>)

which prescribes rules for: -

- A. Completing an accredited vaccination training course,
- B. Recording each vaccination, and
- C. Conducting vaccinations under approved practice standards.

A. Pharmacist Training

The pharmacist must complete a training course that complies with the Australian Pharmacy Council '*Standards for the Accreditation of Programs to Support Pharmacist Administration of Vaccines*' (current version). The training course must be conducted by an Australian Pharmacy Council accredited pharmacy education program provider.

The pharmacist must ensure that they have completed training for all authorised vaccines that they intend to administer.

B. Recording Vaccinations

The pharmacist must record the vaccination with the following information: -

- a) The person's name, address, date of birth and contact details,
- b) The name and contact details of the person's primary medical practitioner,
- c) The brand, batch number and expiry date of the vaccine,
- d) The part of the body to which the vaccine was administered,
- e) The date on which the vaccine was administered,
- f) The pharmacist's name and contact details and his or her certificate of accreditation number,
- g) The address of the pharmacy at which the vaccination was administered, and
- h) A unique reference number for the supply and administration.

All vaccines administered by the pharmacist must be reported to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).

C. Practice Standards

1. General Requirements

1.1. The pharmacist must hold a certificate confirming competency to vaccinate following completion of an accredited training program for all authorised vaccines that they intend to administer as specified in part A.

1.2. The pharmacist must obtain a cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certificate annually.

1.3. The pharmacist must vaccinate a person and provide management of an adverse event within the scope of pharmacist practice, professional knowledge and expertise.

1.4. The pharmacist must comply with the following: -

- a) *'The digital Australian Immunisation Handbook'* – Australian Government Department of Health, and
- b) *'National Vaccine Storage Guidelines – Strive for 5'* (current edition) – Australian Government Department of Health.

1.5. The pharmacist should adopt or follow the following professional guidelines: -

- a) *'Practice guidelines for the provision of immunisation services within pharmacy'* (current edition) – Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, and/or
- b) *'Guidelines for Conducting Immunisation Services within a Community Pharmacy Environment'* (current edition) – Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

1.6. The pharmacist must ensure that when administering vaccines that at least one other appropriately trained pharmacy staff member is present.

1.7. The pharmacist must check an individual's vaccination status on AIR prior to administering a vaccine and subsequently record any vaccines they administer.

2. Pharmacy Premises and Equipment

2.1. The pharmacist must conduct the vaccination in an immunisation service room, consulting room or immunisation area of the pharmacy premises. The room or area may be dedicated for the purpose or an existing consulting room. The room or area is not to be used as a dispensary, storeroom, staff room or retail area.

2.2. The immunisation service room, consulting room or immunisation area must be consistent with the following: -

- a) Not permit the vaccination to be visible or audible to other persons in the pharmacy,
- b) Have adequate lighting,
- c) Be maintained at a comfortable ambient temperature,
- d) Have a hand sanitisation facility,
- e) Have ready access to a hand washing facility,
- f) Have sufficient floor area, clear of equipment and furniture, to accommodate the person receiving the vaccination and an accompanying person, and to allow the pharmacist adequate space to manoeuvre, and
- g) Have sufficient bench space (with an impervious surface), a chair and a first aid couch (or similar).

2.3. The pharmacist must have the following equipment consistent with;

- *'The digital Australian Immunisation Handbook'* , and
- *'National Vaccine Storage Guidelines – Strive for 5'* (current edition): -
 - a) A temperature-monitored refrigerator manufactured (either exclusively or principally) for the purpose of storage of vaccines,
 - b) All necessary consumables required for vaccine administration,
 - c) An appropriately sized sharps container to dispose of clinical waste including used syringes and needles,
 - d) An in-date and complete anaphylaxis response kit,
 - e) An emergency response protocol (preferably laminated) on display,
 - f) Access to *'The digital Australian Immunisation Handbook'* ,
 - g) *'National Vaccine Storage Guidelines – Strive for 5'* (current edition), and
 - h) A process to regularly monitor on-line updates to *'The digital Australian Immunisation Handbook'* , including prior to administering any vaccine.

3. Patient Consent and Eligibility

3.1. The pharmacist must obtain written consent from the person before the vaccination and must retain this consent for seven years (in accordance with the Health Records Information and Privacy Act).

3.2. The pharmacist must undertake a thorough pre-vaccination assessment in accordance with the recommendations in *'The digital Australian Immunisation Handbook'*.

3.3. During pre-vaccination assessment, the pharmacist must advise all individuals who are identified as eligible for funded vaccines of their eligibility, and of how to access funded vaccines.

3.4. The pharmacist must not vaccinate a person with a contra-indication or precaution to vaccination listed in the *'The digital Australian Immunisation Handbook'*.

4. Recording and Reporting

4.1. The pharmacist must record the vaccination with the detail required under clause 48A(2) of the *Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008* (as specified in part B) and a copy of this record should also be kept for seven years.

4.2. The pharmacist must record the details of the vaccine administered in the AIR.

5. Post Vaccination Care of the Patient

5.1. The pharmacist must advise the person to remain on the pharmacy premises for 15 minutes post vaccination and must advise the person of possible risks in leaving earlier than 15 minutes.

5.2. The pharmacist must either observe, or direct an appropriately trained pharmacy staff member to observe, the person for 15 minutes post vaccination to monitor for acute adverse events or anaphylaxis.

5.3. The pharmacist must make notes in the record of vaccination (as specified in part B) when the person leaves the pharmacy premises earlier than 15 minutes post vaccination.

6. Management of Adverse Events

6.1. The pharmacist must be competent to manage anaphylaxis post vaccination including use of adrenaline consistent with '*The digital Australian Immunisation Handbook*'.

6.2. The pharmacist must ensure an ambulance is called to attend a person who experiences anaphylaxis post vaccination.

6.3. Immediately after the response to an adverse event is effected, the pharmacist must notify the adverse event to the immunisation section of the local public health unit by telephone on 1300 066 055.



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