

Administration of Vaccines by Pharmacists at Pharmacies NT Protocol

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1.1.1. Title

Administration of vaccines by pharmacists at pharmacy premises in the Northern Territory (NT)

1.1.2. Areas Applicable

Pharmacy premises

1.1.3. Medicines

- Influenza vaccine
- Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR) vaccine
- Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis vaccine
- Adrenaline

1.1.4. Indication

Vaccination according to the 'Australian Immunisation Handbook' (electronic version)

1.1.5. Contraindications and/or Exclusions

The following persons who have a reason for exclusion after completing the pre-vaccination checklist must be referred to their general medical practitioner or primary health care provider:

- Persons under 10 years of age for influenza vaccine and adrenaline;
- Persons under 16 years of age for MMR vaccine and Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis vaccine;
- Persons with contraindications to vaccinations as listed in the current edition of the 'Australian Immunisation Handbook';
- Persons with immune-compromising conditions from medications or diseases who require MMR vaccine.

For all vaccines:

- Follow any additional vaccine specific contraindications described in the relevant chapters in the 'Australian Immunisation Handbook' (electronic version).

1.1.6. Dose & Route^{*}

As per the 'Australian Immunisation Handbook' (electronic version) both intramuscular or subcutaneous administration, but not for intradermal administration of influenza vaccine.

1.1.4. Dose frequency^{*}

As per 'Australian Immunisation Handbook' (electronic version).

1.1.7. Administration^{*}

As per 'Australian Immunisation Handbook' (electronic version).

1.1.8. Drug Interactions^{*}

As per the 'Australian Immunisation Handbook' (electronic version)

- Refer to the 'Australian Immunisation Handbook' for specific vaccines and their interactions with

immunoglobulins and blood products.

- MMR vaccine must be given at the same time as other live vaccines or at least 4 weeks after another live vaccine such as yellow fever and varicella vaccine.
- Mantoux testing should not be done until 4 weeks after the administration of measles containing vaccines.
- Refer to vaccine specific chapters in the 'Australian Immunisation Handbook' for specific drug interactions with each vaccine.

References:

*The drug information provided is to act as a guide only, for further information reference should be made to the full manufacturer's product info and other reliable sources of medicines information. If contraindications or interactions are present refer to medical officer before administration.

1.1.9. Monitoring Requirements

- Patients who qualify for the National Immunisation Program (NIP) must be offered referral to their local clinic or general practitioner but can be vaccinated in the pharmacy if they choose that service and understand the cost.
- Ensure vaccines are stored according to National Storage Guidelines 'Strivefor Five'.
- Assess patient suitability for vaccination at the pharmacy with pre-vaccination screening questionnaire.
- Contact the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) - for previous immunisation record if required.
- Contact NT Immunisation Team for additional advice if required - Phone: 8922 8315
- Obtain patient consent to be vaccinated.
- Provide advice to the patient on action to take if adverse reaction detected once leaving the pharmacy. Observe the patient post administration for 15 minutes for adverse reaction and
- If an adverse event occurs, an 'Adverse event following vaccination' form must be completed and sent to the Centre for Disease Control (CDC).

1.1.10. Pharmacist Accreditation Requirements

Before 1 January 2017 Successful completion of:

- APPIMM806A - Manage the delivery and administration of injections and immunisations - Pharmaceutical Society of Australia;

Or

- 10455NAT - Course in conduct immunisation services within a community pharmacy environment - Pharmacy Guild of Australia;

After 1 January 2017 Successful completion of:

- a training program accredited to meet the standards set by the Australian Pharmacy Council's 'Standards for the accreditation of programs to support Pharmacist Administration of vaccines'.

All training courses must include training for the influenza, measles, mumps, rubella and diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis vaccines and the use of adrenaline to manage anaphylaxis.

For Children aged 10 to 15 years

Successful completion of

- a training program accredited to meet the standards set by the Australian Pharmacy Council's 'Standards for the accreditation of programs to support Pharmacist Administration of vaccines', which includes a module on childhood vaccination.

All

- General registration with the Pharmacy Board of Australia with no conditions or undertakings which may limit delivery of clinical services directly to patients.
- Ensure adherence to Professional Practice standards and guidelines relevant to the delivery of immunisation services.
- Maintain continuing professional development in the delivery of immunisation services;
- Current certificate Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) 'Anaphylaxis e-training for pharmacists'.
- Current first aid certificate.
- Current cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
- Consumers should be able to observe copies of these certificates if requested.

1.1.11. Pharmacy Requirements

Premises and equipment

- Facilities must comply with the NT Pharmacy Premises Committee's 'PS5 - Premises and Equipment Standard for Pharmacy Based Immunisation Programs' at all times*; and
- Access to appropriate record management storage that can send records to the Australian Immunisation register (AIR).

*Please note - an initial and biennial assessment of vaccination facilities in pharmacy premises is required by authorised officers from Medicines and Poisons Control.

Staffing

- Immunisations can only be administered when an additional pharmacist or pharmacy assistant with current First aid and CPR certificates can assist if needed for emergencies at the premises; and
- The immunisation pharmacist must have uninterrupted time to conduct the pre-vaccination assessment and vaccination procedures.

Audit requirements

- Participate in periodic audits of premises and educational requirements by the NT Department of Health.

1.1.12. Documentation (including necessary information to the patient)

Documentation, policies and procedures must be kept for the following

- Pre-vaccination checklist;
- Storage and handling of vaccines and cold chain monitoring
- Patient exclusion and referral to general practitioner or NIP service
- Obtaining and documenting patient consent
- Disposal of sharps and infection control procedures
- Post vaccination patient monitoring
- Responses to emergencies including anaphylaxis
- Management of staff training records
- Completion of NT 'Adverse Event following Immunisation' form if required.
- Required documentation to be sent to Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) within 14 days of vaccine administration;
- All records must be kept for a minimum of seven years from vaccine administration date, be available for inspection on demand by an authorised officer under the Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2012 and be managed following data security and privacy standards.
- The records must include the following information:
vaccine brand, batch number, patient name, address, date of birth, contact details, date the vaccines was given and pharmacist name.

1.1.13. Related documents

- This protocol is to be used in conjunction with:
- 'Australian Immunisation Handbook' electronic version
<https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/>
- National Vaccine Storage Guidelines 'Strive for 5' electronic version
- <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-vaccine-storage-guidelines-strive-for-5>
- NT Immunisation Program website <https://nt.gov.au/wellbeing/healthy-living/immunisation>
- 'Premises and Equipment Standard for Pharmacy Based Immunisation Programs' as published by the NT Pharmacy Premises Committee
- <https://health.nt.gov.au/health-governance/department-of-health/committees-regulations-advisory-groups/pharmacy-premises-committee>
- Pharmaceutical Society of Australia 'Practice Guidelines for the provision of Immunisation Services within a Pharmacy'
- <http://www.psa.org>