

NT Health information for Pharmacists to administer vaccinations in pharmacy premises in NT

This information is for pharmacists wishing to offer vaccination services at pharmacy premises.

Legislation

The Chief Health Officer under Section 254 of the **Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act** has authorised pharmacists to possess, supply and administer vaccines according to a protocol "Pharmacist-Led Administration of Vaccines to Adults at Pharmacy Premises in the Northern Territory" dated February 2017 published in the Government Gazette S9.

This protocol allows a pharmacist to administer influenza vaccine, measles, mumps, rubella vaccine and diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis vaccine to adults 16 years and above on their own authority, without a prescription, when complying with this protocol.

<https://health.nt.gov.au/professionals/environmental-health/pharmacists-and-schedule-8-medicines>

Vaccination Protocol

The Pharmacist-Led Administration of Vaccines to Adults at Pharmacy Premises outlines criteria that pharmacists and pharmacies must meet to comply with and covers:

- training needs
- patient eligibility
- patient eligibility
- premises
- monitoring requirements and record keeping
- vaccine storage
- anaphylaxis response protocol and medical response kit
- patient consent
- adverse events

Training

A pharmacist with general registration with the Pharmacy Board of Australia with no conditions or undertakings may only provide vaccinations if they have successfully completed an appropriate course of training.

Pharmacists trained before 1 January 2017

Successful completion of

- Ø APPIMM806A - Manage the delivery and administration of injections and immunisations - Pharmaceutical Society of Australia; or
- Ø 10455NAT - Course in conduct immunisation services within a community pharmacy environment - Pharmacy Guild of Australia;

Pharmacists trained after 1 January 2017

Successful completion of

- Ø 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'.
- Ø This course must include training for the influenza, measles, mumps, rubella and diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis vaccines.

All pharmacists who are administering vaccines need:

- current Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) Anaphylaxis e-training for pharmacists certificate,
- current first aid certificate and
- current cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

Consumers must be able to view copies of these certificates if requested.

Premises

Pharmacy premises where vaccines are administered must comply with the **NT Pharmacy Premises Committee's 'PS5 Premises and Equipment Standard for Pharmacy Based Immunisation Programs'**.

<https://health.nt.gov.au/health-governance/department-of-health/committees-regulations-advisory-groups/pharmacy-premises-committee>

Other requirements

Pharmacists providing vaccination must have uninterrupted time to conduct the pre-vaccination assessment and vaccination procedures and an additional staff member trained in CPR and first aid must be present in the pharmacy during vaccination.

Suitable pre-vaccination procedures are required to assess and identify those patients that do not qualify for vaccination or where vaccination may not be appropriate or safe. These patients should be referred to the most appropriate health practitioner for their needs. It is strongly recommended that patients eligible for vaccines under the National Immunisation Program should be given information about their eligibility for free vaccination and referred as necessary.

Pharmacists must obtain consent from each person vaccinated. Adverse events following vaccination must be managed and reported to the Centre for Disease Control as this is a notifiable condition. Pharmacists must have an anaphylaxis response protocol and anaphylaxis medical response kit.

Vaccination records for any vaccine given must be provided to the patient and sent to the Australian Immunisation Register. Pharmacists can now apply for access to the Australian Immunisation Register and need to complete an application form available at <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/health-professionals/forms/im004>

Pharmacists need to be mindful of their scope of practice and refer any patient where management is beyond their competence. Pharmacists should also consider professional indemnity needs.

Some pharmacy industry organisations publish standards and guidelines for safe and professional provision of vaccination services in pharmacies. Pharmacists should familiarise themselves with these standards. Pharmacists must also ensure their familiarity and compliance with any practitioner registration standards applicable to vaccination services.

More information

More information is available from Immunisation on 892 28315 or Medicines and Poisons Control on poisonscontrol@nt.gov.au
(Monday to Friday 8.00am – 4.00pm)