

Supporting Resources for Immunisation in NSW

Pharmacists are established advocates of vaccination and play a significant role promoting and supporting uptake of vaccines. Pharmacists in NSW have administered over 2.7 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines in NSW community pharmacies since August 2021.

In 2022, over 790,000 influenza vaccines were administered in NSW community pharmacies between the commencement of the vaccination program and September 2022, with approximately 23% of all influenza vaccines being administered in a community pharmacy.

Pharmacist immunisers must ensure they comply with the following components of clause 48A of the [Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008](#) which includes:

- completing an accredited vaccination training course,
- recording each vaccination in accordance with the regulation requirements, and
- conducting vaccinations in accordance to the [NSW Pharmacist Vaccination Standard](#)

Pharmacist immunisers should adopt or follow the following professional guidelines:

- [Practice Guidelines for pharmacists providing immunisation services](#) – Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, and/or
- [Guidelines for Conducting Pharmacist Administered Vaccination Services](#) – Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

In November 2022, NSW Health expanded the range of vaccines that pharmacists could administer to include Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Japanese encephalitis, Poliomyelitis, Typhoid and Shingrix. This is in addition to the vaccines that pharmacists were already able to offer including influenza, Measles mumps and rubella, Diphtheria tetanus and pertussis, Human papillomavirus, Meningococcal ACWY and COVID-19.

National Immunisation Program (NIP) and state funded vaccines can be ordered from the NSW Health Vaccine Centre depending on patient eligibility. This includes access to NIP influenza vaccines for medically at-risk people aged 5 and above and dTpa vaccines for pregnant women.

Pharmacists now have a significant role to play in promoting and supporting the uptake of vaccination. Pharmacists must check AIR prior to administering each vaccine, and this should be used as an opportunity to check a patient's vaccine history, and ensure patients are up to date on all routine and required vaccinations.

Proprietors must maintain, and be able to demonstrate an awareness of, the manner in which immunisation services in their pharmacy business are being conducted. Strategies should be in place to ensure that immunisation services are conducted in accordance with applicable laws, standards and guidelines.

The accompanying **Immunisation Flow Chart** is designed as a summary of the requirements for pharmacist immunisers.

Resources:

The following links to resources are not exhaustive and should not be considered definitive.

NSW Health

[Pharmacist initiation and administration of vaccines](#)

[Ordering vaccines - Immunisation programs](#)

[NSW Pharmacist Declaration Form](#)

[Expansion of pharmacist vaccination program 2022](#)

NSW Legislation

[Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008 \(Clause 48A\)](#)

[Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002](#)

Guidelines

[NSW Pharmacist Vaccination Standards](#)

[PSA Practice Guidelines for pharmacists providing immunisation services](#)

[Pharmacy Guild Guidelines for conducting pharmacist initiated and administered vaccination service withing a NSW community pharmacy environment](#)

[AHPRA Pharmacy Board of Australia](#)

[Pharmacy Council NSW The Guide](#)

Resources:

[The Australian Immunisation Handbook](#)

[National vaccine storage guidelines - Strive for 5](#)

[Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation \(ATAGI\)](#)

[ATAGI advice on seasonal influenza vaccines in 2023](#)

[National Immunisation Program Schedule](#)

[Services Australia](#)

[Australian Pharmacy Council accreditation standard for pharmacist administration of vaccine programs](#)

[St John Ambulance Australia, DRSABCD action plan](#)

[Hand Hygiene Australia](#)

[ASCIA Action Plans, First Aid Plans, Treatment Plans and Checklists](#)

Training:

[Immunisation Course - Pharmaceutical Society of Australia](#)

[Immunisation Course - Pharmacy Guild of Australia](#)

[COVID-19 vaccination training program](#)

[PSA: Japanese encephalitis - A learning resource for immunisation providers](#)

[Pharmacy Guild of Australia: Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine Course](#)

[ASCIA e-training for pharmacists](#)

This resource has been prepared for NSW pharmacists by the Pharmacy Council of NSW, PDL, Pharmacy Guild of Australia (NSW), PSA (NSW) and SHPA