

Immunisation:

Below is a summary of the requirements for pharmacist immunisers, and it should not be considered exhaustive. Pharmacists should always refer to the **NSW Poisons and Therapeutics Goods Regulation 2008** and the **NSW Pharmacist Vaccination Standards**.



Legislation

A registered pharmacist immuniser must comply with clause 48A of the NSW Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008 which prescribes rules for:

- training
 - recording each vaccination, and
 - adhering to the NSW Pharmacist Vaccination Standards
- Pharmacists should adopt and follow PSA Immunisation Guidelines and/or Pharmacy Guild Immunisation Guidelines.

Training

The pharmacist immuniser must:

- complete a training course that is accredited by the Australian Pharmacy Council
- hold a current cardiopulmonary CPR certificate (renewed annually) and current first aid certificate (renewed every 3 years). There is not a grace period if expired
- annually review best practice and ensure their competence for each vaccine they administer
- successfully complete core COVID-19 training modules, and relevant specific additional COVID-19 vaccine training modules for all COVID-19 vaccines administered
- successfully complete a Japanese Encephalitis (JE) training module prior to administering a JE vaccine.

Intern Pharmacist

An intern pharmacist must meet the same training requirements as a pharmacist immuniser and is only able to administer vaccines under the direct supervision of a pharmacist immuniser who holds certification to vaccinate for the relevant vaccine.

Room Requirements

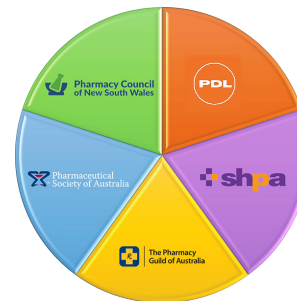
The room must:

- not be used as a dispensary, storeroom, staff room or retail area
- provide adequate privacy, lighting and a comfortable ambient temperature
- have a hand sanitisation facility and access to a hand washing facility
- have sufficient floor area to accommodate two people and the pharmacist immuniser
- have sufficient bench space, a chair and first aid couch (or similar).

Note: Pharmacists can administer vaccines in healthcare, suitable retail, community, residential, workplace, and education settings provided that all conditions of the Standard are met.

Equipment Requirements

- The **Australian Immunisation Handbook**
- **National Vaccine Storage Guidelines 'Strive for 5'**
- TGA approved product information for each vaccine administered
- ATAGI recommendations for COVID-19 vaccines
- A temperature-monitored vaccine refrigerator
- All necessary consumables
- A sharps container to dispose of clinical waste e.g., used syringes and needles
- Complete, in-date **anaphylaxis response kit**
- Emergency response protocol
- Process to monitor on-line updates.



Consent, Eligibility and Records

Pharmacists should refer to the Australian Immunisation Handbook, ATAGI recommendations and TGA approved Product Information to:

- complete pre and post vaccination assessments and determine vaccine eligibility
- obtain informed written or documented verbal consent, with COVID-19 vaccines requiring written or electronic consent (retain for 7 years)
- advise patients how to access funded vaccines
- take medical and allergy history
- refer patients with contraindications and precautions (except for COVID-19 vaccination for a person on anti-coagulation therapy, or eligible pregnant woman)
- refer travellers that meet any of the criteria on the **NSW Health Referral Checklist** to a GP or travel medicine practitioner
- confirm the vaccine the patient is intending to have administered, using open ended questions.

AIR

AIR must be checked prior to administration and all vaccines administered must be uploaded to AIR within 24 hours.

Records

- Pharmacist immunisers must make a record compliant with **Clause 48A of the Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008**.
- GuildCare and MedAdvisor are compliant electronic systems for recording vaccination.

Post Vaccination

Patients should be observed for 15 minutes with an appropriately trained person present. Post vaccination care and advice should be provided, and any adverse events/anaphylaxis managed.