

Pharmacist Vaccinations

Background

Under the *Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008*, pharmacists are authorised to administer certain vaccines without a prescription.

This authorisation is subject to training, premises and record keeping requirements as set out by the Chief Health Officer in the [ACT Pharmacist Vaccination Standards](#) (Vaccination Standards).

Pharmacist vaccinations in the ACT

Pharmacist vaccinations are aimed at complementing existing immunisation services and improving public access to immunisation in the ACT.

An authorised pharmacist may vaccinate people against influenza and pertussis (whooping cough) in the ACT provided they comply with the Vaccination Standards.

An intern pharmacist may also vaccinate against influenza or pertussis provided that they do so in accordance with the Vaccination Standards and under the direct supervision of a pharmacist authorised to administer the vaccine.

ACT pharmacists administering a vaccine must ensure that they meet the necessary training, premises and record keeping requirements to ensure that effective safe-guards are in place.

What vaccines can a pharmacist administer?

Pharmacists may only administer the influenza or pertussis (diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis (dTpa)) vaccine to patients 16 years or older. Pregnant women are also excluded from receiving their vaccination by a pharmacist.

Vaccination training

Registered pharmacists can only administer vaccines once they have completed appropriate training.

Only training programs that comply with the Australian Pharmacy Council's [Standards for the Accreditation of Programs to Support Pharmacist Administration of Vaccines](#) (current version) will be considered compliant in accordance with Part A of the Vaccination Standards.

In addition to the above training, pharmacists will also need to maintain current first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certificates, and a current certificate for the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCI) anaphylaxis e-training for pharmacists.

Premises and procedural standards

Immunisation services provided by pharmacists should only be provided in a safe, clean environment for the benefit of both the pharmacist and patient.

All vaccinations must be conducted in accordance with the Australian Immunisation Handbook (current online edition). The Australian Immunisation Handbook is available from: <https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/>.

The administering pharmacist must obtain written informed patient consent prior to vaccine administration. Pharmacists and pharmacies must also maintain appropriate premises standards and patient health records in accordance with the Vaccination Standards.

In addition to complying with the Vaccination Standards, pharmacists are encouraged to adopt or follow professional guidelines prepared by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia or the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

Post-vaccination observation

All patients must remain on the premises for at least 15 minutes post-vaccination for observation.

The seating area provided for patients must be easily monitored by an authorised pharmacist who has successfully completed the pharmacist training requirements.

Record keeping

The administering pharmacist or pharmacy, where possible, should provide a copy of the vaccination details to the patient and the patient's nominated general practitioner. Pharmacists or pharmacies must also supply a record, no less than annually (including electronic record) to the Chief Health Officer about pharmacist vaccination events.

Pharmacists must also electronically record each vaccination event for National Immunisation Program funded vaccines on the Australian Immunisation Register.

The record keeping, training and premises requirements set out by the Pharmacist Vaccination Standards apply to the administration of all vaccines, regardless of why a consumer may be seeking a vaccine.

More information

This document has been prepared for information only, please refer to the Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008 available on the [ACT Legislation Register](#) for full legislative requirements.

For further information, please visit [the Health Protection Service](#) website or contact the Pharmaceutical Services Section of the Health Protection Service on pss@act.gov.au or (02) 5124 9208.

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