

Frequently Asked Questions: pharmacist vaccinations

Does ACT Health recognise the pharmacist vaccination training courses completed in other Australian states or territories?

ACT Health recognises training completed in other Australian states and territories provided that this training is delivered by a Registered Training Organisation and complies with the Australian Pharmacy Council's [Standards for the Accreditation of Programs to Support Pharmacist Administration of Vaccines](#) (current version).

Pharmacists must demonstrate suitability against all of the conditions specified in Part A of the ACT Pharmacist Vaccination Standards to be considered appropriately trained to administer the seasonal influenza vaccine or the pertussis vaccine in the ACT.

Does ACT Health need to pre-approve my pharmacist vaccination administration area?

Pharmacist vaccination administration areas do not require pre-approval by ACT Health.

Pharmacists and pharmacies must ensure that any vaccination services provided by pharmacists are provided in a safe, clean environment for the benefit of both the pharmacist and patient.

All premises requirements are set out in the [ACT Pharmacist Vaccination Standards](#). Compliance with standards, including administration area requirements, will be assessed during routine inspection by an authorised Medicines and Poisons Inspector under the *Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2008*.

Which vaccines can I administer?

Pharmacists may only administer the seasonal influenza vaccine or pertussis vaccine (diphtheria, tetanus, a-cellular pertussis (dTpa)).

From April 2019, pharmacists may administer the above vaccines to patients aged 16 years or older (previously 18 years or older).

Who can I vaccinate?

In the ACT, authorised pharmacists may only administer the influenza or dTpa to, non-pregnant patients aged 16 years or older. The [ACT Pharmacist Vaccination Standards](#) contain further information about patient eligibility criteria and administration standards for pharmacist vaccinations.

What about eligible National Immunisation Program (NIP) patients?

From April 2019, some participating pharmacies may provide [NIP funded](#) influenza vaccines to patients over 65 years of age.

Pharmacists should ensure that patients eligible to receive NIP funded vaccines that cannot be provided at the pharmacy, are advised of their eligibility to receive the vaccine free of charge from their nominated GP. GP consultation fees may apply.

Do I have to notify ACT Health of an adverse event following immunisation?

Yes, all Adverse Event Following Immunisation (AEFI) are notifiable conditions under the *Public Health Act 1997* and must be reported to ACT Health. An AEFI is any unwanted or unexpected event following the administration of vaccine(s).

All AEFIs must be recorded in the patient's vaccination record, reported to the patient's GP (if known) and the ACT Health Immunisation Unit.

The AEFI reporting form is available at the [ACT Health website](#).

Can I administer the dTpa vaccine for indications other than pertussis?

Under the ACT Pharmacist Vaccination Standards, pharmacists have been authorised

to administer the dTpa vaccine to help minimise the public and personal health impacts of whooping cough (pertussis). However, if the administration is within the pharmacist's training and professional scope of practice, a pharmacist may administer the dTpa vaccine for indications other than pertussis prevention. All vaccinations must be conducted in accordance with the Australian Immunisation Handbook (current online edition).

When should I refer a patient to an alternate health care provider?

Patients in the following groups are considered unsuitable for pharmacist vaccination and should be referred to a medical practitioner or [Early Childhood Immunisation Clinic](#) (if aged less than 5 years):

- patients aged less than 16 years;
- patients with any contraindications or precautions to influenza or dTpa vaccination (as detailed by the Australian Immunisation Handbook);
- patients who have previously had an anaphylactic reaction to any vaccine or vaccine component; and
- patients who are pregnant*.

** Pregnant women in their third trimester are able to receive the pertussis vaccine for free as part of the [ACT Health Antenatal Pertussis Vaccination Program](#).*

It is recommended that pregnant women discuss vaccinations with their preferred medical practitioner, obstetrician or antenatal care provider as part of their comprehensive antenatal care.

When should I supply my vaccination record to the Chief Health Officer (CHO)?

Pharmacists or pharmacies must supply a pharmacist vaccination record form to the Health Protection Service Immunisation Unit by November each year. The NIP influenza record form should be sent fortnightly. These details can be emailed, posted or faxed to the Immunisation Unit using the below contact details.

Who can I contact for further information?

Please contact the Immunisation Unit Health Protection Service by:

Telephone (02) 5124 9442

Email: immunisation@act.gov.au

Fax: (02) 5124 9307

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