

Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods (Nurse and Midwife Immunisers) Direction 2020 (No 1)

Disallowable instrument DI2020 – 290

made under the

Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008, section 353 (Authorisation for nurse or midwife to administer vaccine without prescription—Act, s 37 (1) (b))

1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods (Nurse and Midwife Immunisers) Direction 2020 (No 1)*.

2 Commencement

This instrument commences on the day after notification.

4 Direction by Chief Health Officer

A nurse or midwife is authorised to administer a vaccine to a person without a supply authority (prescription or standing order) if the nurse or midwife administers the vaccine in accordance with the ACT Registered Nurse and Midwife Vaccination Standards as set out in Schedule 1.

Dr Kerry Coleman

Chief Health Officer

9 October 2020



ACT Registered Nurse and Midwife Vaccination Standards

These Registered Nurse and Midwife Vaccination Standards (vaccination standards) are made under the Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008 for the purposes of establishing conditions and criteria under which a registered nurse or midwife may initiate administration of vaccines in the absence of a supply authority (prescription) or standing order.

These vaccination standards should be read in conjunction with the *Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2008* and the Medicines and Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008 (from www.legislation.act.gov.au) to ensure registered nurses and midwives are fully aware of their obligations in administering vaccinations.

A registered nurse or midwife may administer a vaccine to a person in the absence of a supply authority (prescription or standing order) subject to the following conditions:

- The registered nurse or midwife is acting within the scope of their profession and, if employed, within the scope of their employment;
- The vaccine is specified under Part A of this document;
- The registered nurse or midwife meets the training and qualification requirements under Part B of this document; and
- The registered nurse or midwife meets the condition requirements specified under Part C of this document.

In this document, 'registered nurse or midwife' means a person who holds registration under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (ACT)* to practice in the nursing or midwifery professions. The term does not include an enrolled nurse.

In addition, this document does not preclude a registered nurse practitioner or endorsed midwife from administering a vaccine without a prescription or standing order within their scope of practice.

Part A – Vaccines

A registered nurse or midwife may administer, without a supply authority (prescription or standing order), any vaccine included in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods, except for:

- Immunisation for tetanus prophylaxis related to wound management.
- Immunisation for travel purposes, including for Yellow Fever.
- Immunisation of contacts of a case with a notifiable condition, unless directed by the CHO or their delegate.
- Immunoglobulin preparations, unless directed by the Chief Health Officer or their delegate.
- Immunisation for Tuberculosis.
- Immunisation for Q fever (*Coxiella burnetii*).
- Immunisation for Rabies and other Lyssaviruses.
- Immunisation for Japanese Encephalitis.



Part B – Training and Qualification Requirements

A registered nurse or midwife has appropriate training and competence to administer vaccines without a prescription if they can demonstrate they have successfully completed a training course that meets the minimum requirements set out in the [National Immunisation Education Framework for Health Professionals \(December 2017\)](#) (the National Education Framework).

The following courses are accepted as meeting the curriculum requirements of the National Education Framework –

- Any course accredited with Health Education Services Australia against the Immunisation Accreditation Standards
- University of Melbourne – Nurse Immunisation Program
- La Trobe University – Nurse Immuniser Program
- University of Tasmania – Immunisation Education for Registered Nurses
- Australian College of Nursing – Immunisation for Health Practitioners
- SA Health – Understanding Vaccines & the National Immunisation Program
- QLD Health/Cunningham Centre – Registered Nurse Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996 course

An authorised registered nurse or midwife must also ensure that they have the necessary knowledge, experience and commitment to continuous self-education to ensure their professional competence to practise as an immunisation service provider. This may be, but is not limited to, attendance at updates or seminars on current practices or annually reviewing best practice policy for immunisation.

Part C – Condition Requirements

The following conditions apply under this document. The authorised nurse or midwife must:

- Conduct vaccinations in accordance with the [Australian Immunisation Handbook \(current online version\)](#);
- Store vaccines in accordance with the current version of the [National vaccine storage guidelines: Strive for 5](#);
- Maintain appropriate records of each vaccination event. Each vaccination event should be recorded on the [Australian Immunisation Register](#);
- Ensure a complete and in-date anaphylaxis response kit is readily available at the premises at which the vaccine is given;
- Report any adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) to the ACT Health Protection Service¹;

¹ Note: AEFIs are Notifiable Conditions under the ACT Public Health Act 1997 and must be reported to the Health Protection Service Immunisation Unit.



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- Hold a current certificate for the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) anaphylaxis e-training for health professionals or equivalent issued;
- Have successfully obtained a statement of proficiency in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (such as *Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation - HLTAID001 or equivalent*) within the last 12 months; and
- Be covered by appropriate professional indemnity insurance for providing vaccinations (generally this insurance will be held by the employer).