

Australian Capital Territory

Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods (Vaccinations by Pharmacists) Direction 2020 (No 2)

Disallowable instrument DI2020-88

made under the

Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008, section 352
(Authorisation for pharmacist and intern pharmacist to administer vaccine without prescription - Act, s 37 (1)(b))

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Section 352 of the Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008 (the MPTGR) establishes that a pharmacist is authorised to administer a vaccine to person without a prescription if the pharmacist administers the vaccine in accordance with a direction by the Chief Health Officer.

That same section also provides that the Chief Health Officer may, by disallowable instrument, give directions for the administration of a vaccine to a person without prescription by a pharmacist (or intern pharmacists).

This instrument is a direction of the Chief Health Officer issued under section 352 of the MPTGR. The direction instructs that a pharmacist or intern pharmacist may administer a vaccine without prescription if they comply with the Pharmacist Vaccination Standards (Vaccination Standards) imposed by the Chief Health Officer at Schedule 1 of this instrument.

These Vaccination Standards are made for the purposes of establishing conditions and criteria under which registered pharmacists may initiate the administration of the seasonal influenza vaccine to a person in absence of a supply authority (prescription).

The Vaccination Standards outline the need for administering pharmacists to comply with the following three components:

- Completion of appropriate training to administer an approved vaccine;
- Practice standards; and
- Record keeping requirements.

Part A of the Vaccination Standards specifies the training requirements for pharmacists to be authorised to administer approved substance (vaccine) in the ACT.

These training requirements are considered to be consistent with the minimum training standards required in other Australian jurisdiction, being the completion of a training course that accords with the Australian Pharmacy Council *Standards for the Accreditation of Programs to Support Pharmacist Administration of Vaccines* (current version).

As a result of the COVID-19 emergency and in recognition of the additional demand on constrained resources, Part A – pharmacist training has been temporarily amended. A pharmacist whose cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certificate or First Aid Training expires during the COVID-19 declared emergency is taken to be compliant against the pharmacist training requirements. This consideration only applies until the declared emergency is over. After which any pharmacist wishing to continue providing immunisation services would need to renew their CPR certificate or First Aid Training. This amendment is aligned with the *Modification to Standards for the Accreditation of Programs to support Pharmacist Administration of Vaccines during COVID-19 pandemic* made by the Australian Pharmacy Council on 1 April 2020.

Part B of the Vaccination Standards provides an outline of general administration; premises, staffing and equipment; and administration area requirements.

Part C of the Vaccination Standards sets out recording keeping requirements for pharmacists and pharmacies. This section requires pharmacists to consult, and record vaccination events on the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) for all National Immunisation Program funded vaccines. This section also encourages pharmacists to record privately funded vaccines on the AIR in the interest of establishing a consistent and accurate vaccination immunisation record for all Australians. Record keeping requirements under the Vaccinations Standards are broadly aligned with the record requirements of other Australian jurisdictions.

Appendix 1 describes the vaccines approved to be administered by pharmacists and associated conditions.