

Vaccinator Update Course Standards

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Introduction

The Vaccinator Update Course Standards set the minimum education requirements which underpin safe vaccination practice in New Zealand, ensuring equity and consistency in national course content and delivery. The principles of Te Tiriti O Waitangi underpin our kaupapa.

Vaccinator update courses are designed to provide health professionals with current information in relation to changes in immunisation theory, practice and policy at a local, regional and national level to ensure they remain conversant with vaccination developments, and to display the appropriate competencies to vaccinate safely in accordance with their scope of practice.

Facilitation of vaccinator training courses will integrate best practice principles for adult learners. A range of opportunities for learning will be incorporated into each course. This will include identifying and supporting individual learning needs in order to meet the course learning outcomes.

The vaccinator update courses are aligned with the:

- *Immunisation standards for vaccinators and guidelines for organisations offering immunisation service*, and
- *Authorisation of vaccinators and criteria for pharmacist vaccinators* in appendices 3 & 4, current [Immunisation Handbook](#) (Ministry of Health - the Ministry)

Reauthorisation

- An update course must be completed by the health professional at least every two years to renew vaccinator status.
- Pharmacist vaccinators are required to complete the process outlined in the current *Immunisation Handbook*.
- Requirements for reauthorisation as a vaccinator (Medicine Regulations 1984 clause 44A) are obtained from the local public/population health unit or the medical officer of health.
- The local immunisation coordinator or public health unit can provide guidance for the process and requirements for reauthorisation.
- N.B. Vaccinators who are NOT prescribers, pharmacist vaccinators, or authorised vaccinators require a prescription or standing order to administer vaccines (see [Standing Order Guidelines](#), the Ministry).

- Maintaining scope of practice is the responsibility of the individual practitioner and their employer; issues should be addressed to the appropriate regulating body.

Vaccinator Update Courses

The course consists of a minimum of four hours theory. There are two learning options:

- An online course, which includes four options (depending on the vaccinator's scope of practice), and assessments
- A four-hour tutorial, including time for one-to-one discussion, and assessments

For both vaccinator update courses, learning activities and questions form the assessment.

Reading material is included as part of the four-hour update programme to meet the requirements of the 'Standards for vaccinators'.

Resources

- Health Promotion Agency and the Ministry - [Health Education](#) resources
- [IMAC](#) written resources
- [IMAC](#) influenza resources
- [National Standards for Vaccine Storage and Transportation for Immunisation Providers 2017](#)
- [Medsafe](#) vaccine data sheets
- [PHARMAC](#) website vaccine resources
- [CARM](#) reporting form - New Zealand Pharmacovigilance Centre
- [World Health Organization](#) vaccine resources
- [World Health Organization](#) immunisation resources
- [World Health Organization](#) immunisation schedules by country
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) vaccine and immunisation resources

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This publication is intended to support education sessions provided at Vaccinator Training Courses and should be used in conjunction with other evidence-based immunisation publications.

The Immunisation Advisory Centre takes no responsibility for the manner in which this information is subsequently used.

Course objective

To provide participants with the knowledge and skills required to provide high quality, safe and effective vaccine delivery. Participants will understand the processes and systems which underpin vaccinator practice as outlined in the *Immunisation Handbook* and meet the minimum educational requirements for reauthorisation as a vaccinator, or to continue to practise as a pharmacist vaccinator.

Course assessment

Assessment is incorporated into the vaccinator update courses by the education facilitator. The online updates include multiple choice questions to assess participants' learning and recall of the concepts reviewed. A pass mark of 80% is required.

Additional information

- Course start times will vary as specified in the current IMAC Education Courses brochure
- Participants will receive a certificate of attendance, or can download a certificate following successful completion of the online course
- The requirements for vaccinators and vaccination services are outlined in appendices 3 & 4 of the current *Immunisation Handbook*
- Relevant articles for further reading will be available at the tutorial course and links to these articles are provided as part of the online course

Unit timing guide

Unit	Topic	Minimum timings
1	Vaccine safety	40 minutes
2	Current issues and developments in vaccination theory and practice	100 minutes
3	Improving immunisation coverage	40 minutes

Unit 1: Vaccine safety

Purpose

To provide vaccinators with the opportunity to review and update their current knowledge so they can continue to safely administer vaccines, including those on the New Zealand National Immunisation Schedule, following best practice principles.

Learning outcomes

At the end of this session participants will be able to:

- State strategies to minimise the risk of adverse events following immunisation (AEFI)
- Identify and review knowledge of the management of AEFIs
- Outline the process of reporting a medication error and an AEFI

Recommended content

- World Health Organization classification of AEFIs
- Essential components of a pre-vaccination screening to reduce the risk of an AEFI
- Contraindications to specific vaccines
- Differentiation between faint, anaphylaxis, hypotonic-hyporesponsive episode (HHE) and other hypersensitivities
- Identification and management of anaphylaxis
- Adrenaline administration including dosage, route, appropriate sites and side effects
- Identification, management and documentation of medication errors and AEFIs, and reporting to CARM
- Facilitator to identify and discuss current vaccine safety concerns

Resources

- [Brighton Collaboration Resources](#) website
- Link to electronic form for [CARM](#) reporting - New Zealand Pharmacovigilance Centre
- IMAC [Anaphylaxis and vaccination](#) fact sheet
- Current [Immunisation Handbook](#)

Unit 2: Current issues and developments in vaccination theory and practice

Purpose

To update the participants' knowledge of current legislation, policy recommendations and evidence-based practice for the safe delivery of vaccines on the New Zealand National Immunisation Schedule and vaccines across the lifespan.

Learning outcomes

At the end of this session participants will be able to:

- Describe any changes in the National Immunisation Schedule and the rationale for these
- Identify medical conditions that extend the eligibility for funded vaccines for special groups and high-risk populations
- Have an awareness of vaccines available for purchase outside the National Schedule
- Identify any changes in policy, legislation or best practice recommendations for the delivery of immunisation
- Identify strategies to prevent cold chain breaches
- Outline the management process in the event of a cold chain breach
- Outline the process for maintaining appropriate qualifications as a vaccinator

Recommended content

- Changes to the National Immunisation Schedule, including new vaccines and those for special groups
- Recently approved vaccines for use in New Zealand including reclassified vaccines
- Legislative changes for vaccinators' authorisation, payment claims and medicines handling
- Review local or national policies for management of disease outbreaks
- Review national policies for vaccine administration, storage, handling and documentation
- Recent examples of cold chain breaches and what can be learned from these events

Resources

- [IMAC Cold Chain resources links](#)
- [National Standards for Vaccine Storage and Transportation for Immunisation Providers 2017](#)
- [Annual Cold Chain Management Record](#) resource
- [National Cold Chain Audit \(NCCA\) FAQs](#)
- [The essential cold chain](#) fact sheet
- [The essential data logger](#) fact sheet

- [Initial steps in a cold chain breach](#) fact sheet
- [COOL Project Report](#)
- IMAC [National Immunisation Schedule](#) card
- Appendices 3 & 4 current [Immunisation Handbook](#) (authorisation)
- Pages 44 & 45 current [Immunisation Handbook](#) (strategies for vaccine acceptance)

Unit 3: Improving immunisation coverage

Purpose

To share successes and identify evidence-based strategies to increase and sustain immunisation coverage in New Zealand.

Learning outcomes

At the end of this session participants will be able to:

- Identify strategies to achieve immunisation equity and high coverage for population health
- Review strategies to maximise immunisation timeliness
- Identify immunisation national targets and indicators, including expected outcomes
- Outline targeted strategies to increase immunisation coverages for special groups and specific programmes, i.e., influenza and HPV
- Describe robust strategies to overcome immunisation barriers and to support vaccine acceptance
- Identify information to provide to decliners
- Review catch-up immunisation and other variations to the standard immunisation schedule

Recommended content

- Consideration of provider systems to improve coverage and capture accurate immunisation data
- Update of current national coverage data (including local data for face-to-face courses)
- Timeliness strategies, e.g. early newborn enrolment, pre-call, reminder and referral practices
- Strategies to improve coverage for special groups, i.e. pregnant women, severely immunocompromised, babies of hepatitis B positive mothers, those without a spleen
- Targeted strategies to improve coverage for groups at risk of vaccine preventable diseases (in workplaces, rest homes, schools etc.) e.g. text reminders, local partnerships, collaboration with businesses, programmes for ages 4 and 14 vaccine update review
- Outline of future risks with decliner and non-responders, e.g. outbreak, travel, exclusion from education, school camps etc.
- Strategies to address immunisation barriers, e.g. processes, health literacy, vaccine concerns, vaccine hesitancy, anti-immunisation
- Strategies that enhance immunisation conversations, e.g. opening conversations, engagement, active listening, trust, transparency
- Models of immunisation communication, e.g. risk communication, motivational interviewing, shared decision making, CASE model
- Planning and implementing catch-up schedules

Resources

- [Immunization Communication Tool for Immunizers](#), British Columbia, Canada 2013
- [National and DHB immunisation data](#)
- [Myths and Realities: Responding to arguments against vaccination. A guide for providers](#), Australian Government 2013
- Current [Immunisation Handbook](#)