

# Secretary Approval: Nurse Immunisers

## DRUGS, POISONS AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES REGULATIONS 2017 Approval under regulation 161

Pursuant to Regulation 161 of the Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations 2017 (the Regulations), I, Jacqueline Goodall, Director, Medicines and Poisons Regulation and Delegate of the Secretary, Department of Health, hereby approve:

- (1) the Schedule 4 poisons listed in Appendix 1 for possession by a nurse for administration to a patient in that nurse's care on condition that the nurse meets the requirements of a nurse immuniser as set out below.
- (2) the Schedule 4 poison listed in Appendix 2 for possession by a nurse who meets the requirements of a nurse immuniser for administration to a patient in that nurse's care; and in addition on condition that the nurse has satisfactorily completed the Japanese encephalitis eLearning module, as approved by the Deputy Chief Health Officer – Communicable Disease, prior to administering the Japanese encephalitis vaccine.

This approval revokes the Secretary Approval: Nurse Immunisers published in the Government Gazette G16 Thursday 16 April 2018.

## Nurse Immunisers

### 1. The Approval applies to:

A nurse who is registered in Division 1 of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia register who provides evidence to the employer of currency of competence and ongoing professional development in immunisation and who:

- On 30 June 2010 was registered in Division 1 of the register of nurses endorsed under section 27A of the Health Professions Registration Act 2005 by the Nurses Board of Victoria<sup>1</sup> in the approved area of practice – Immunisation

Or

- Has satisfactorily completed the assessment of a nurse immuniser program recognised by the Chief Health Officer (see Note)

Or

- Has satisfactorily completed the assessment of an 'Immuniser program of study' recognised by the Chief Health Officer, providing the education provider offers the program to nurses

Or

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<sup>1</sup> This does not include limited registration, provisional registration, non-practising registration, or student registration.

- Has satisfactorily completed a nurse immuniser program not recognised by the Chief Health Officer and has written confirmation from the program provider that at the time the program was completed, it was of equivalent standard to a program currently recognised by the Chief Health Officer

Or

- Has satisfactorily completed the assessment of an 'immuniser program of study' that meets the curriculum content requirements of the National Immunisation Education Framework for Health Professionals

Note – For a list of the immuniser programs of study that have been recognised by the Chief Health Officer and a link to the Japanese encephalitis eLearning module that has been approved by Deputy Chief Health Officer – Communicable Disease see:

<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/nurse-immuniser-study-programs>

**2. The nurse may possess and administer the following Schedule 4 poisons in order to administer without supervision or instruction:**

- a. vaccines listed in Appendix 1;
- b. vaccine listed in Appendix 2 where the nurse has completed the Japanese encephalitis eLearning module; and
- c. such other Schedule 4 poisons as are necessary for the treatment of anaphylactic reactions to the vaccines.

**2.1 The following circumstances apply:**

- a. the nurse is employed, contracted, or otherwise engaged by:
    - i. a medical practitioner;
    - ii. municipal council which employs, contracts or ensures access to a medical practitioner;
- or
- iii. health services permit holder who employs, contracts or ensures access to a medical practitioner.
- b. The medical practitioner referred in clause 2.1(a) is available to provide advice to the nurse on the use of the specified Scheduled poisons when needed.
  - c. The nurse possesses and administers only the Schedule 4 poisons obtained by the medical practitioner, municipal council or health services permit holder by whom they are employed, contracted or otherwise engaged.
  - d. The nurse administers the Schedule 4 poisons in:
    - i. the performance of their duties with the medical practitioner, municipal council or health services permit holder (as the case requires)
    - ii. accordance with the edition of the Australian Immunisation Handbook<sup>2</sup> that is current at the time of the vaccine administration and

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<sup>2</sup> Current version available online.

- iii. accordance with any guidelines issued by Department of Health such as the 'Approved client groups for immunisation by nurse immunisers'<sup>3</sup>.

## Appendix 1: Vaccines

### Generic name of vaccine

Diphtheria	Haemophilus influenzae type b
Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B
Human papillomavirus	Influenza
Measles	Meningococcus
Mumps	Pertussis
Polio	Rotavirus
Rubella	Streptococcus pneumoniae
Tetanus	Varicella

## Appendix 2: Vaccine

Column 1: Generic name of vaccine	Column 2: Additional information
Japanese encephalitis	Approval is limited to people recommended for vaccination as listed on the Victorian Department of Health's Japanese encephalitis in Victoria webpage <sup>4</sup> as amended from time to time.  Approval does not apply to any person seeking vaccination for international travel purposes.

This approval takes effect from the date of publication in the Victoria Government Gazette.



Approved by JACQUELINE GOODALL

Date: 17 May 2022

Director, Medicines and Poisons Regulation

<sup>3</sup> Victorian Department of Health, Approved client groups for immunisation by nurse immunisers available at: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/nurse-immunisers-approved-client-groups>

<sup>4</sup> Victorian Department of Health, Japanese encephalitis in Victoria – Information for Health Professionals available at: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases/information-for-health-professionals-japanese-encephalitis-in-victoria>

Delegate of the Secretary, Department of Health

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