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| Secretary Approval: Nurse Immunisers |
| DRUGS, POISONS AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES REGULATIONS 2017  Approval under regulation 161 |
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Pursuant to regulation 161 of the Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations 2017 (the Regulations), I, Stefan Tulloch, Acting 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.
3. the Schedule 4 poison listed in Appendix 3 for possession by a nurse who meets the requirements of a nurse immuniser for administration to a patient in that nurse’s care on condition that prior to administering the monkeypox vaccine, the nurse immuniser has satisfactorily completed:
   1. the Monkeypox vaccination eLearning module, as approved by the Deputy Chief Health Officer – Communicable Disease; and
   2. the Intradermal injection - skills and competency assessment[[1]](#footnote-2), if administering intradermal monkeypox vaccinations.

This approval revokes the Secretary Approval: Nurse Immunisers published in the Government Gazette S 244 Thursday 19 May 2022.

## 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[[2]](#footnote-3) 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

* 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 links to the Japanese encephalitis eLearning module and Monkeypox vaccination eLearning module that have been approved by Deputy Chief Health Officer – Communicable Disease see:

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

1. **The nurse may possess and administer the following Schedule 4 poisons in order to administer without supervision or instruction:**
2. vaccines listed in Appendix 1;
3. vaccine listed in Appendix 2 where the nurse has completed the Japanese encephalitis eLearning module;
4. vaccine listed in Appendix 3 where the nurse has completed the Monkeypox vaccination eLearning module; and
5. such other Schedule 4 poisons as are necessary for the treatment of anaphylactic reactions to the vaccines.
   1. **On the condition that the following circumstances apply:**
6. the nurse is employed, contracted, or otherwise engaged by:
7. a medical practitioner;
8. municipal council which employs, contracts or ensures access to a medical practitioner;

or

1. health services permit holder who employs, contracts or ensures access to a medical practitioner.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. The nurse administers the Schedule 4 poisons in:
5. the performance of their duties with the medical practitioner, municipal council or health services permit holder (as the case requires)
6. accordance with the edition of the Australian Immunisation Handbook[[3]](#footnote-4) that is current at the time of the vaccine administration and
7. accordance with any guidelines issued by Department of Health such as the ‘Approved client groups for immunisation by nurse immunisers’[[4]](#footnote-5).

**Appendix 1: Vaccines**

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| **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/Zoster/Herpes zoster |

**Appendix 2: Vaccine**

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| **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[[5]](#footnote-6) as amended from time to time.  Approval does not apply to any person seeking vaccination for international travel purposes. |

**Appendix 3: Vaccine**

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| **Column 1: Generic name of vaccine** | **Column 2: Additional information** |
| Monkeypox (smallpox/vaccinia virus) | Approval is limited to people recommended for vaccination as listed on the Victorian Department of Health’s Monkeypox webpage[[6]](#footnote-7) as amended from time to time.  Approval does not apply to any person seeking vaccination for travel purposes other than those persons recommended for vaccination as listed on the Victorian Department of Health’s Monkeypox webpage5,[[7]](#footnote-8) |

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

Approved by STEFAN TULLOCH

Date: 29 September 2022

Acting Director, Medicines and Poisons Regulation

Delegate of the Secretary, Department of Health

1. Included in the Victorian monkeypox vaccination program guidelines, available at: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases/monkeypox> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. This does not include limited registration, provisional registration, non-practising registration, or student registration. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Current version available online. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. 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> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. 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> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. Victorian Department of Health, Monkeypox, available at: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases/monkeypox> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. Travel medicine is a specialist area that is outside the scope of this approval. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)