

# Secretary Approval: Nurse Immunisers

Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations 2017, regulation 8(1) and regulation 161

Regulation 8 of the Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations 2017 authorises nurses and registered midwives to be in possession of Schedule 4, Schedule 8 and Schedule 9 poisons. The extent of authorisation is set by the approval of the Secretary under regulation 161. The Secretary must consider that the possession is (a) necessary for the provision of health services and (b) within the competence of a nurse without the supervision or instruction of a medical practitioner, dentist, nurse practitioner, authorised midwife, authorised optometrist or authorised podiatrist (as the case requires).

## Nurse Immunisers

### 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 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 the nurse immuniser programs recognised by the Chief Health Officer see <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/immunisation/immunisers-in-victoria/nurse-immunisers>

**The nurse may possess and administer the following Schedule 4 poisons:**

1. vaccines listed in Appendix 1 and
2. such other Schedule 4 poisons as are necessary for the treatment of anaphylactic reactions to the vaccines.

**The following circumstances apply:**

- a. the nurse is employed or contracted 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 paragraph (a) is available to provide advice to the nurse on the use of the Schedule 4 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 he or she is employed or contracted.
- d. The nurse administers the Schedule 4 poisons in:
  - . the performance of his or her duties with the medical practitioner, municipal council or health services permit holder (as the case requires)
  - i. accordance with the edition of the Australian Immunisation Handbook that is current at the time of the administration and
  - ii. accordance with any guidelines issued by Department of Health such as the 'Approved client groups for immunisation by nurse immunisers'.

**Appendix 1: Vaccines**

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

This approval supersedes the Secretary Approval Schedule 4 poisons approved for use by nurse immunisers dated 28 March 2012.

Approved by ANNA PEATT:

Date: 4/4/18

Chief Officer, Drugs and Poisons Regulation, Delegate of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services

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