

Practice Nurses & Immunisation - Queensland

Immunisation is one of the tasks assigned to nurses working in general practice. The following information has been provided to assist practice nurses with understanding the *Health (Drugs & Poisons) Regulations 1996* which govern the administration of vaccines in Queensland.

The following information should be used as a guide only and further clarification sought by referring to the relevant documents listed below.

- Vaccines are restricted (Schedule 4) drugs
- A registered nurse is authorised under s.175 (1) of the Health (Drugs & Poisons) Regulations 1996 to administer a restricted drug on the oral or written instruction of a doctor
- A registered nurse with Immunisation Program Nurse (IPN) on their Queensland Nursing Council (QNC) annual licence certificate may only use this endorsement when employed in an Immunisation Program.
- General practices are not Immunisation Programs therefore IPN endorsement cannot be used in this setting.
- An enrolled nurse is not authorised to administer a vaccine.
- An enrolled nurse with medication endorsement from the QNC is able to administer a vaccine on a doctor's oral or written order and under the supervision of a registered nurse.
- The Medicare item number 10993 which provides a payment for an immunisation administered by a registered nurse in general practice does not override these regulatory requirements.

Relevant documents:

Health (Drugs & Poisons) Regulations 1996 available at <http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/Search/isysquery/bc808ceb-6b98-4a99-8d5a-a9ec37c5170f/1/doc/HealDrAPoR96.pdf#xml=http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/Search/isysquery/bc808ceb-6b98-4a99-8d5a-a9ec37c5170f/1/hilite/>

The Health (Drugs & Poisons) Regulations 1996 – What nurses need to know April 2000, Queensland Health Environmental Health Unit, Brisbane

Drug Therapy Protocol Immunisation Program – Registered Nurses August 2007 Qld Health Environmental Health Unit, Brisbane available at <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/ph/documents/ehu/24254.pdf>

Guidelines for Standards of Practice for Registered Nurses with Drug Therapy Protocol Endorsement October 2002, Queensland Nursing Council available at http://www.qnc.qld.gov.au/upload/pdfs/practice_standards/Guidelines_on_Standards_of_Practice_for_RNs_with_Drug_Therapy_Protocol_Endorsement.pdf

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Qld Nursing Council Position Statement – The Enrolled Nurse and Medication Administration available at

http://www.qnc.qld.gov.au/upload/pdfs/information_sheets/Scope_of_practice_framework_2005_Framework/Framework_position_statement_The_enrolled_nurse_and_medication_administration.pdf

Competency Standards for nurses in general practice – Professional Supervision of Enrolled Nurses available at http://www.anf.org.au/nurses_gp/resource_16.pdf



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