

Imm and Vacc Support

Practical Immunisation Competencies

The guidance for this document is drawn from the following publications:
Core Curriculum for Immunisation Training (Health Protection Agency 2005)
National Minimum Standards for Immunisation Training (Health Protection Agency 2005) The Revised Code (NMC 2015).

The National Minimum Standards document, under the heading “ The Requirement To Be Trained” states:

“Those new to immunisation should be supervised by an experienced Immuniser and attend a formal taught course at the earliest opportunity”

Nurses who are new to immunisation and nurses who are returning to practice can use this document before and after formal training to identify gaps in knowledge and skills.

Registered nurses can immunise before they attend a formal course providing they complete the practical competency assessment document, which should be signed by the nurse and an experienced immuniser acting as an assessor. The nurse should keep the original signed document and a copy kept by the employer/lead nurse.

Nurses should work within the limits of their competency as stated in “The Code: Professional standards of practice and behaviour for nurses and midwives” (January 2015)

Make sure that patient and public safety is protected.

Recognise and work within the limits of your competence

- Ask for help from a suitably qualified and experienced healthcare professional to carry out any action or procedure that is beyond the limits of your competence
- Take account of your own personal safety as well as the safety of people in your care,
- Complete the necessary training before carrying out a new role.
- Be open and candid with all service users about all aspects of care and treatment, including when any mistakes or harm have taken place

Always practise in line with the best available evidence

- Make sure that any information or advice given is evidence-based, including information relating to using any healthcare products or services.

- Maintain the knowledge and skills you need for safe and effective practice.

A range of activities are recommended to achieve practical competency:

- Shadowing experienced immunisers
- Practicing skills under supervision
- Reflective practice
- Discussion to explore critical incidents
- Reference to relevant guidance documents eg Green Book
- Attending course

Significant events

Any significant event which occurs during or as a result of administration of medication must be reported to the Practice Manager / GP / Clinical Manager and the incident reported via the local SIT Team significant event reporting framework. Vaccine related clinical incidents should be reported to the Immunisation Lead Nurse in the first instance.

Immunisers must be familiar with the following organisation documents:

- Consent Policy
- Documentation Policy
- Significant Event Reporting Policy
- NMC Standards for Medicines Management 2008
- NMC Code Guidelines for record keeping 2015

Competency	Dates of Assessment (Minimum 3 assessments per competency)	Signature of assessor that competency achieved
1. Demonstrates importance of maintaining cold chain: -can state correct temperature for vaccine storage -records/checks fridge temp before vaccination session		
2. Is familiar with and has access to the current UK immunisation schedule. Has access to the Green Book (online) www.dh.gov.uk and the HPA algorithm for children with uncertain vaccination status.		

3. If applicable, demonstrates knowledge of the range of travel vaccines available. Has access to Travax/NaTHNaC website.		
4. Is able to assess the suitability of a patient for a particular vaccine in relation to allergies, contraindications, cautions and interactions with other vaccines/drugs		
5. If applicable, is aware of issues around current influenza and Pneumococcal campaigns and current DH guidance on at risk groups		
6. Checks patient records prior to vaccination to ascertain previous immunisation history and ensure correct vaccines are given to bring patient in line with current UK schedule		
7. Knows whom to contact for advice if unsure about which vaccine to give/ schedule/vaccine compatibility		
9. Ensures informed consent has been obtained prior to vaccinating		
10. Correctly reconstitutes/draws up vaccine		
11. Ensures anaphylaxis equipment readily available and how to use it		
12. Checks correct vaccine and vaccine dose has been prepared. Checks expiry date prior to administration.		
13. Correctly positions patient and provides reassurance to patient/parent		

14. Demonstrates correct injection technique; uses correct needle size and injection site		
15. Disposes of sharps, vaccine vials and other vaccine equipment safely		
16. Documents type of vaccine, batch number, expiry date, date given and injection site in clinic notes and child health records. Ensures details for scheduled and unscheduled Immunisations are forwarded to Child Health.		
17. Gives advice to patient about potential side effects and management of these		

I agree that I am competent in the above aspects of immunisation:

Name:

Signed:

Date:

I agree that _____ is competent in the above aspects of immunisation

Assessor name:

Signed:

Date:

Title and qualifications

These competencies have been adapted from the Core Curriculum for Immunisation Training (Health Protection Agency 2005)
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