

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What is the NIPVIP Program?

The National Immunisation Program Vaccinations in Pharmacy (NIPVIP) Program is an initiative by the Australian Government whereby eligible pharmacies are funded to administer National Immunisation Program (NIP) vaccines to people over 5 years of age.

Review the national Pharmacy Programs Administrator Portal – **National Immunisation Program Vaccinations in Pharmacy (NIPVIP) Program** information page for detailed program information, including additional FAQs and information on program eligibility, claiming and payments.

## What do I need to do to be able to vaccinate under the NIPVIP?

The **National Immunisation Program – Vaccination In Pharmacy checklist** has been developed by SA Health to outline all requirements for the NIPVIP Program and is available on the SA Health website.

## What requirements must be met for a pharmacist to administer vaccines without a medical order?

In South Australia, regulation 18 (3a) of the *Controlled Substances (Poisons) regulations 2011* allows for an appropriately trained pharmacist to administer a vaccine without a medical order in accordance with the recommendations in the Australian Immunisation Handbook. The pharmacist must have successfully completed a training course accredited for pharmacists by the Australian Pharmacy Council or Health Education Services Australia. When administering vaccines, pharmacists must be working within their individual scope of practice. Pharmacists may only administer vaccines to consumers aged 5 years and above under the NIPVIP program.

## What vaccines can be administered without a medical order under the NIPVIP Program?

Vaccines can be administered as per the **NIP South Australia Immunisation Schedule** to those aged 5 years and above, and as per the current recommendations in the online **Australian Immunisation Handbook**. Pharmacists providing immunisation services must work within the South Australian legislation and their individual scope of practice.

## What is the NIP South Australia Immunisation Schedule?

In addition to the NIP, SA Health also funds some additional vaccines under the **NIP South Australian Immunisation Schedule**. This includes meningococcal B and Japanese Encephalitis Virus (JEV) vaccines. Pharmacists are not funded by the Australian Government to administer these, participating pharmacies administering the JEV vaccine will continue to receive state funding.

## Can people without a Medicare card receive vaccines under the NIPVIP Program?

**No.** People without Medicare are not eligible to receive NIP funded vaccines under the NIPVIP Program.

## Can a pharmacist administer privately funded vaccines without a medical order?

**Yes.** Privately funded vaccines can be administered by a pharmacist without a medical order, provided they meet the requirements of regulation 18 (3a) and are working within their individual scope of practice.

## How do I know what vaccines a person has previously received?

Pharmacists must check the person's immunisation history statement on the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) prior to administering any vaccines.

## How do I order and store vaccines?

Vaccine access and how to order vaccines is available on the **Vaccine ordering and storage** webpage.

Distribution of vaccines will be regularly reviewed to ensure vaccine stock is available according to usage. This does not include the COVID Vaccination Program which is managed through the Commonwealth Government, Vaccine Operation Centre.

## Are all NIP vaccines available for the program?

**No.** Vaccines available for administration by pharmacists under the program are for those aged 5 years and above as per the National Immunisation Program South Australian Schedule.

## What are the reporting requirements under the NIPVIP?

- > Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) - It is mandatory for all NIP, State, COVID-19 and influenza vaccines to be recorded on the AIR.
- > **Adverse Events Following Immunisation (AEFIs)** – It is mandatory for Pharmacists to report AEFIs reported to them to SA Health. These can be reported by completing the SA Health **online AEFI report**.
- > Vaccination administration errors - A vaccine administration error occurs when a vaccine is given outside the recommended clinical guideline recommendations outlined in the Australian Immunisation Handbook and by the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI). Report all vaccine program errors to the SA Health Immunisation Clinical Advisory Service on 1300 232 272.
- > Cold chain breaches – All temperature excursions outside 2°- 8°C for government funded NIP and state funded vaccines must be reported to SA Health before any vaccines are used or discarded. These must be reported to the Immunisation Section, SA Health by phoning 1300 232 272 Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm.
- > Expired stock – All stock that is disposed due to expiry must be reported on the Vaccine Distribution Centre ordering system upon disposing in medical waste.

## What resources are available for pharmacies participating in this program?

Resources include:

- > **Pharmacist Immunisers webpage**
- > **Vaccination in Pharmacy checklist**
- > **Vaccine ordering and distribution information sheet**
- > **NIPVIP vaccine ordering fact sheet**
- > **Immunisation records and registers webpage**
- > **Immunisation for Health Professionals webpage**
- > **Immunisations Resources webpage**

## What information do I need to give people after they have received their vaccine?

The person must wait for observation for at least 15 minutes to ensure that they do not experience an immediate adverse event, and to provide rapid medical care if needed. They should not drive or operate machinery during this time.

Inform the vaccinated person or parent/legal guardian, preferably in writing, of any expected adverse events following immunisation, how to report any adverse events to SA Health. Ideally the SA Health post vaccination leaflet should be provided to the person and the date of the next scheduled vaccination (if applicable).

The following can be ordered as hard copies or downloaded from the SA Health **immunisation resources page**.

- > After Vaccination Information
- > After Vaccination for Pregnant Women

## For more information

- > National Immunisation Program Vaccinations in Pharmacy (NIPVIP) Program **Portal**
- > Immunisation Section, SA Health website **[www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/immunisationprovider](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/immunisationprovider)** or Phone 1300 232 272