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DRUGS, POISONS AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES REGULATIONS 2017

Secretary Approval: Nurse Immunisers

Approval under Regulation 161

Pursuant to Regulation 161 of the Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations 2017 (the Regulations), I, Nitsa Karahalios, Director, Regulatory Compliance and Operations – Health 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 mpox (monkeypox) vaccine, the nurse immuniser has satisfactorily completed:
 - (a) the Mpox (monkeypox) eLearning module, as approved by the Deputy Chief Health Officer – Communicable Disease; and
 - (b) the Intradermal injection – skills and competency assessment,¹ if administering intradermal mpox (monkeypox) vaccinations.
- (4) the Schedule 4 poisons listed in Appendix 4 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 a respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine or RSV therapeutic product, the nurse immuniser has satisfactorily completed:
 - (a) any additional training and competency requirements listed on the Victorian Department of Health's Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) immunisation webpage² at the time of administration.

This approval revokes the Secretary Approval: Nurse Immunisers published in the Government Gazette S 518 on Monday 3 October 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 Victoria³ in the approved area of practice – Immunisation;

¹ Included in the Victorian mpox (monkeypox) vaccination program guidelines, available at: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases/mpox-monkeypox>

² Victorian Department of Health, Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) immunisation, available at: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/respiratory-syncytial-virus-immunisation>

³ This does not include limited registration, provisional registration, non-practising registration, or student registration.

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 a link to the Japanese encephalitis eLearning module and Mpox (monkeypox) 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>

2. The nurse may possess the following Schedule 4 poisons in order to administer without supervision or instruction:

- (a) vaccines listed in Appendix 1;
- (b) vaccine listed in Appendix 2 where the nurse has completed the Japanese encephalitis eLearning module; and
- (c) vaccine listed in Appendix 3 where the nurse has completed the Mpox (monkeypox) eLearning module; and
- (d) vaccine or therapeutic product listed in Appendix 4 where the nurse has completed any additional training and competency requirements in relation to that Schedule 4 poison as listed on the Victorian Department of Health’s Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) immunisation webpage², at the time of administration; and
- (e) such other Schedule 4 poisons as are necessary for the treatment of anaphylactic reactions to the vaccines.

2.1 On the condition that the following circumstances apply:

- (a) the nurse is employed, contracted, or otherwise engaged 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 clause 2.1(a) is available to provide advice to the nurse on the use of the specified Scheduled 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 they are employed, contracted or otherwise engaged.

- (d) The nurse administers the Schedule 4 poisons in:
- i. the performance of their duties with the medical practitioner, municipal council or health services permit holder (as the case requires)
 - ii. accordance with the edition of the *Australian Immunisation Handbook*⁴ that is current at the time of the Schedule 4 poison administration and
 - iii. accordance with any guidelines issued by Department of Health such as the ‘Approved client groups for immunisation by nurse immunisers’⁵.

Appendix 1: Vaccines

Generic name of vaccine	
Diphtheria	Haemophilus influenzae type b
Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B
Herpes zoster (shingles)	Human papillomavirus
Influenza	Measles
Meningococcal	Mumps
Pertussis	Pneumococcal
Polio	Rotavirus
Rubella	Tetanus
Varicella (chickenpox)	

Appendix 2: Vaccine

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 webpage ⁶ at the time of administration. Approval does not apply to any person seeking vaccination for travel purposes other than those people recommended for vaccination as listed on the Department of Health’s Japanese encephalitis webpage ^{6,7} .

Appendix 3: Vaccine

Column 1: Generic name of vaccine	Column 2: Additional information
Mpox (monkeypox) (smallpox/vaccinia virus)	Approval is limited to people recommended for vaccination as listed on the Victorian Department of Health’s Mpox (monkeypox) webpage ⁸ at the time of administration. 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 Mpox (monkeypox) webpage ^{7,8} .

⁴ Current version available online.

⁵ 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>

⁶ Victorian Department of Health, Japanese encephalitis, available at: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases/japanese-encephalitis>

⁷ Travel medicine is a specialist area that is outside the scope of this approval.

⁸ Victorian Department of Health, Mpox (monkeypox), available at: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases/mpox-monkeypox>

Appendix 4: Vaccine or therapeutic product

Column 1: Generic name of vaccine or therapeutic product	Column 2: Additional information
Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine or RSV therapeutic product as listed on the Victorian Department of Health's Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) immunisation webpage ²	Approval is limited to people recommended for immunisation as listed on the Victorian Department of Health's Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) immunisation webpage ² at the time of administration. Approval does not apply to any person seeking immunisation for travel purposes other than those people recommended for immunisation as listed on the Department of Health's Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) immunisation webpage ^{2,7} .

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

Dated 20 March 2024

Approved by NITSA KARAHALIOS
 Director, Regulatory Compliance and Operations – Health
 Delegate of the Secretary, Department of Health

DRUGS, POISONS AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES REGULATIONS 2017

Secretary Approval: Pharmacist Immuniser

Approval under Regulation 163

Pursuant to Regulation 163 of the Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations 2017 (the Regulations), I, Nitsa Karahalios, Director, Regulatory Compliance and Operations – Health, and Delegate of the Secretary, Department of Health, hereby approve:

- (1) the Schedule 4 poisons listed in Appendix 1 for administration by a pharmacist on condition that the pharmacist meets the requirements of a pharmacist immuniser as set out below.
- (2) the Schedule 4 poison listed in Appendix 2 for administration by a pharmacist who meets the requirements of a pharmacist immuniser, and in addition, on condition that the pharmacist 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 administration by a pharmacist who meets the requirements of a pharmacist immuniser on condition that prior to administering the mpox (monkeypox) vaccine, the pharmacist has satisfactorily completed:
 - (a) the Mpox (monkeypox) eLearning module, as approved by the Deputy Chief Health Officer – Communicable Disease; and
 - (b) the Intradermal injection – skills and competency assessment¹, if administering intradermal mpox (monkeypox) vaccinations.
- (4) the Schedule 4 poisons listed in Appendix 4 for administration by a pharmacist who meets the requirements of a pharmacist immuniser, and on condition that prior to administering a respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine or RSV therapeutic product, the pharmacist has satisfactorily completed:
 - (a) any additional training and competency requirements listed on the Victorian Department of Health's Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) immunisation webpage² at the time of administration.

This approval revokes the Secretary Approval: Pharmacist Immuniser published in the Government Gazette S 518 Monday 3 October 2022.

1. This approval applies to:

a pharmacist who at the time of the administration of the Schedule 4 poisons holds general registration with the Pharmacy Board of Australia³ and:

- (a) Has satisfactorily completed the assessment of an 'Immuniser program of study' recognised by the Chief Health Officer (see Note);
- Or
- (b) 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; and
 - (c) Has recency of practice and continuing professional development in immunisation (as defined from time to time by the Pharmacy Board of Australia);

¹ Included in the Victorian mpox (monkeypox) vaccination program guidelines, available at: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases/mpox-monkeypox>

² Victorian Department of Health, Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) immunisation, available at: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/respiratory-syncytial-virus-immunisation>

³ This does not include limited registration, provisional registration, non-practising registration, or student registration.

Or

- (d) Is currently completing clinical practice in a hospital, pharmacy, pharmacy depot, general practice or immunisation clinic as part of an ‘Immuniser program of study’ recognised by the Chief Health Officer under the direct supervision of a:
- (i) medical practitioner;
 - (ii) nurse practitioner;
 - (iii) ‘Nurse Immuniser’⁴ that is compliant with Regulation 8(1) of the Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substance Regulations 2017; or
 - (iv) Pharmacist that is compliant with Regulation 99(c) of the Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations 2017;

And

- (e) Holds a current first aid certificate (to be updated every three years); and
- (f) Holds a current cardiopulmonary resuscitation certificate (to be updated annually).

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 the Mpox (monkeypox) eLearning module that have been approved by Deputy Chief Health Officer – Communicable Disease see: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/programs-of-study>.

2. The pharmacist may administer the following Schedule 4 poisons:

- (a) vaccines listed in Appendix 1 to persons set out in the corresponding entry in column 2, subject to the corresponding exclusions in column 3.
- (b) vaccine listed in Appendix 2 where the pharmacist has completed the Japanese encephalitis eLearning module, to persons listed in column 2, subject to the exclusions in column 3.
- (c) vaccine listed in Appendix 3 where the pharmacist has completed the Mpox (monkeypox) eLearning module, to persons listed in column 2, subject to the exclusions in column 3.
- (d) vaccine or therapeutic product listed in Appendix 4 where the pharmacist has completed any additional training or competency requirements in relation to that Schedule 4 poisons listed on the Victorian Department of Health’s Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) immunisation webpage² at the time of administration, to persons listed in column 2, subject to the exclusions in column 3.

3. On the condition that the following circumstances apply:

- (a) ***The premises on which a pharmacist administers the Schedule 4 poisons must:***
 - (i) be one of the following premises:
 - (I) A hospital; or
 - (II) A pharmacy as defined in the **Pharmacy Regulation Act 2010**; or
 - (III) A pharmacy depot, as defined in the **Pharmacy Regulation Act 2010**, that is a stand-alone business in premises owned or leased by the licensee of the related pharmacy;
- Or
- (IV) Be a mobile or outreach service of one of the premises referred to in paragraphs 3(a)(i)(I), (II) or (III) because the pharmacist administering the Schedule 4 poisons owns, is employed or otherwise engaged by the business referred to in paragraphs 3(a)(i)(I), (II) or (III) and sources the Schedule 4 poisons from those premises.
- (b) ***Any premises referred to in paragraphs 3(a)(i)(I), (II) or (III) on which a pharmacist administers a Schedule 4 poison must*** meet the guidelines for facilities for immunisation services described in the *Victorian Pharmacy Authority Guidelines* that are current at the time of the administration.

⁴ ‘Nurse Immuniser’ is a nurse acting in accordance with a Secretary Approval to administer certain vaccines.

(c) **All pharmacists administering Schedule 4 poisons:**

- (i) must do so in accordance with:
- (I) The edition of the *Australian Immunisation Handbook*⁵ that is current at the time of the administration; and
 - (II) The edition of the *National Vaccine Storage Guidelines: Strive for 5*⁵ that is current at the time of the administration; and
- (ii) must ensure that at least one other staff member that holds a current first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation certificate is on duty in the pharmacy when the Schedule 4 poisons are administered and for a minimum period of 15 minutes afterwards, where administering on premises defined in paragraphs 3(a)(i)(I), (II) or (III).

Note: Pharmacists who administer Schedule 4 poisons, as listed in Appendices 1, 2, 3 and 4, are referred to the edition of the *Victorian Pharmacist-Administered Vaccination Program Guidelines* current at the time of administration and issued by the Department of Health, which apply to the administration of all government-funded vaccines by pharmacists. These guidelines contain best practice guidance for the administration of all Schedule 4 poisons listed in Appendices 1, 2, 3 and 4 (whether government-funded or not) by pharmacists.

Note: Pharmacists who administer the Schedule 4 poison, as listed in Appendix 3 are referred to the edition of the *Victorian mpox (monkeypox) vaccination program guidelines*, current at the time of administration and issued by the Department of Health.

Note: Pharmacists are permitted to possess and administer Schedule 3 poisons pursuant to Regulation 141 of the Regulations. Accordingly, pharmacists are permitted to possess and administer Schedule 3 Poisons that are necessary for the treatment of anaphylactic reactions to the Schedule 4 poison. Those Schedule 3 Poisons should be kept on hand and utilised should they be required at the time the Schedule 4 poison is administered.

Appendix 1

Column 1: Generic name of vaccine	Column 2: Approval for pharmacists to vaccinate with this vaccine applies to	Column 3: Approval for pharmacists to vaccinate with this vaccine excludes
Influenza	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vaccination of people aged 5 years and older, excluding those circumstances listed in Column 3. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vaccination for travel purposes⁶; ● Vaccination of people aged 4 years and younger; ● Vaccination of people with contraindications defined in the current edition of the <i>Australian Immunisation Handbook</i>⁵.
Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vaccination of people aged 12 years and older, excluding those circumstances listed in Column 3. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vaccination for travel purposes⁶; ● Vaccination of people aged 11 years and younger; ● Vaccination of people that are contacts in the event of a case of pertussis, unless directed by the Department of Health⁷; ● Vaccination for the express purpose of post-exposure prophylaxis in people with a tetanus-prone wound⁸; ● Vaccination of people with contraindications defined in the current edition of the <i>Australian Immunisation Handbook</i>⁵.

⁵ Current version available online.

⁶ Travel medicine is a specialist area that is outside the scope of this approval.

⁷ Pertussis vaccine is only available in Australia in combination with diphtheria and tetanus, or diphtheria, tetanus and poliomyelitis.

⁸ A case of this vaccine-preventable disease is notifiable to the Victorian Department of Health under the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019. The Department of Health will advise on management of the case and contacts.

Column 1: Generic name of vaccine	Column 2: Approval for pharmacists to vaccinate with this vaccine applies to	Column 3: Approval for pharmacists to vaccinate with this vaccine excludes
Human papillomavirus (HPV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vaccination of people aged 12 years and older, excluding those circumstances listed in Column 3. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vaccination for travel purposes⁶; ● Vaccination of people aged 11 years and younger; ● Vaccination of people with contraindications defined in the current edition of the <i>Australian Immunisation Handbook</i>⁵.
Measles-mumps-rubella vaccine (MMR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vaccination of people aged 15 years and older, excluding those circumstances listed in Column 3. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vaccination for travel purposes⁶; ● Vaccination of people aged 14 years and younger; ● Vaccination of people with contraindications defined in the current edition of the <i>Australian Immunisation Handbook</i>⁵.
Meningococcal ACWY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vaccination of people aged 15 years and older, excluding those circumstances listed in Column 3. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vaccination for travel purposes⁶; ● Vaccination of people aged 14 years and younger; ● Vaccination of people with contraindications defined in the current edition of the <i>Australian Immunisation Handbook</i>⁵.
Pneumococcal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vaccination of people aged 50 years and older, excluding those circumstances listed in Column 3. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vaccination for travel purposes⁶; ● Vaccination of people aged 49 years and younger; ● Vaccination of people with contraindications defined in the current edition of the <i>Australian Immunisation Handbook</i>⁵.
Herpes zoster (shingles)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vaccination of people aged 50 years and older, excluding those circumstances listed in Column 3. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vaccination for travel purposes⁶; ● Vaccination of people aged 49 years and younger; ● Vaccination of people with contraindications defined in the current edition of the <i>Australian Immunisation Handbook</i>⁵.

Appendix 2

Japanese encephalitis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccination of people aged 5 years and older that are recommended for vaccination as listed on the Victorian Department of Health's Japanese encephalitis webpage⁹ at the time of administration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccination for people not recommended for vaccination; • Vaccination for travel purposes other than those people recommended for vaccination as listed on the Victorian Department of Health's Japanese encephalitis webpage^{6,9}; • Vaccination of people aged 4 years and younger; • Vaccination of people with contraindications defined in the current edition of the <i>Australian Immunisation Handbook</i>⁵.
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Appendix 3

Mpox (monkeypox)/smallpox/vaccinia virus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccination of people aged 5 years and older that are recommended for vaccination as listed on the Victorian Department of Health's Mpox (monkeypox) webpage¹⁰ at the time of administration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccination for people not recommended for vaccination; • Vaccination for travel purposes other than those people recommended for vaccination as listed on the Victorian Department of Health's Mpox (monkeypox) webpage^{6,10}; • Vaccination of people aged 4 years and younger; • Vaccination of people with contraindications defined in the current edition of the <i>Australian Immunisation Handbook</i> (or current recommendations issued by the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI))⁵.
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⁹ Victorian Department of Health, Japanese encephalitis, available at: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases/japanese-encephalitis>

¹⁰ Victorian Department of Health, Mpox (monkeypox), available at: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases/mpox-monkeypox>

Appendix 4

Column 1: Generic name of vaccine or therapeutic product	Column 2: Approval for pharmacists to immunise with this vaccine or therapeutic product applies to	Column 3: Approval for pharmacists to immunise with this vaccine or therapeutic product excludes
Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine or RSV therapeutic product as listed on the Victorian Department of Health's Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) immunisation webpage ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Immunisation of people aged 5 years and older that are recommended for immunisation as listed on the Victorian Department of Health's Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) immunisation webpage² at the time of administration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Immunisation of people not recommended for immunisation; ● Immunisation for travel purposes other than those people recommended for immunisation as listed on the Victorian Department of Health's Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) immunisation webpage^{2,6}; ● Immunisation of people aged 4 years and younger; ● Immunisation of people with contraindications defined in the current edition of the <i>Australian Immunisation Handbook</i> (or current recommendations issued by the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI))⁵.

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

Dated 20 March 2024

Approved by NITSA KARAHALIOS
Director, Regulatory Compliance and Operations – Health
Delegate of the Secretary, Department of Health

DRUGS, POISONS AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES REGULATIONS 2017

Secretary Approval: Registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Health Practitioner Immuniser

Approval under Regulation 160

Pursuant to Regulation 160 of the Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations 2017 (the Regulations), I, Nitsa Karahalios, Director, Regulatory Compliance and Operations – Health, and Delegate of the Secretary, Department of Health, hereby approve:

- (1) the Schedule 4 poisons listed in Appendix 1 for possession by a registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner for administration to a person under that registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner's care on condition that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner meets the requirements of a registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner immuniser as set out below.
- (2) the Schedule 4 poison listed in Appendix 2 for possession by a registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner who meets the requirements of a registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner immuniser, for administration to a person under that registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner's care; and in addition, on condition that the registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner has satisfactorily completed the additional Japanese encephalitis training as specified in the Victorian Guidelines for the administration of vaccines by registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners¹.
- (3) the Schedule 4 poison listed in Appendix 3 for possession by a registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner who meets the requirements of a registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner immuniser for administration to a person under that registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner's care; and in addition, on condition that the registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner has satisfactorily completed the additional Mpox (monkeypox) training as specified in the Victorian Guidelines for the administration of vaccines by registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners¹.
- (4) the Schedule 4 poison listed in Appendix 4 for possession by a registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner who meets the requirements of a registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner immuniser for administration to a person under that registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner's care; and in addition, on condition that the registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner has satisfactorily completed the additional COVID-19 training as specified in the Victorian Guidelines for the administration of vaccines by registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners¹.
- (5) the Schedule 4 poisons listed in Appendix 5 for possession by a registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner who meets the requirements of a registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner immuniser for administration to a person under that registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner's care; and in addition, on condition that the registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner has satisfactorily completed the additional training and competency requirements in relation to that Schedule 4 poison as listed on the Victorian Department of Health's Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) immunisation webpage² at the time of administration.

This approval revokes the Secretary Approval: Registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner Immuniser published in the Government Gazette G 26 Thursday 29 June 2023, pp. 1132–1135 (corrected by erratum notice published in the Government Gazette G 29 20 July 2023, p. 1252).

¹ Victorian Department of Health, Victorian Guidelines for the administration of vaccines by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners, available at: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/victorian-guidelines-for-atsihp-immunisers>

² Victorian Department of Health, Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) immunisation, available at: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/respiratory-syncytial-virus-immunisation>

1. The approval applies to a registered health practitioner who at the time of possession and administration of the Schedule 4 poisons holds general registration with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia³ and:

- (a) has satisfactorily completed the assessment of an ‘Immuniser program of study’ recognised by the Chief Health Officer (see note); and
- (b) holds a current first aid certificate (to be updated every three years); and
- (c) holds a current cardiopulmonary resuscitation certificate (to be updated annually).

Note: For a list of the immuniser programs of study that have been recognised by the Chief Health Officer and a link to the Japanese encephalitis and Mpox (monkeypox) eLearning modules that has been approved by Deputy Chief Health Officer – Communicable Disease see: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/atsihp-immuniser-study-programs>.

2. The registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner may possess and administer the following Schedule 4 poisons:

- (a) vaccines listed in Appendix 1; and
- (b) vaccine listed in Appendix 2 where the registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner has satisfactorily completed the additional Japanese encephalitis training as specified in the Victorian Guidelines for the administration of vaccines by registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners; and
- (c) vaccine listed in Appendix 3 where the registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner has satisfactorily completed the additional Mpox (monkeypox) training as specified in the Victorian Guidelines for the administration of vaccines by registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners; and
- (d) vaccine listed in Appendix 4 where the registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner has satisfactorily completed the additional COVID-19 training as specified in the Victorian Guidelines for the administration of vaccines by registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners; and
- (e) vaccine or therapeutic product listed in Appendix 5 where the registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner has satisfactorily completed the additional training and competency requirements in relation to that Schedule 4 poison as listed on the Department of Health’s Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) immunisation webpage² at the time of administration.

3. On the condition that the following circumstances apply:

- (a) the registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner is employed, contracted, or otherwise engaged by a service provider in Victoria who employs or contracts a registered medical practitioner, nurse practitioner or authorised midwife.
- (b) a registered medical practitioner, nurse practitioner or authorised midwife referred to in clause 3(a) provides a written instruction to the registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner to administer a Schedule 4 poison to a person under the registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner’s care.
- (c) the registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner must comply with the edition of the Victorian Guidelines for the administration of vaccines by registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners¹ current at the time of administration.
- (d) the registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner, when undertaking any authorised immunisation activities, must be under the indirect supervision of either:
 - i. the registered medical practitioner, nurse practitioner or authorised midwife referred to in clause 3(a); or
 - ii. a registered medical practitioner, nurse practitioner or authorised midwife with immunisation within their professional practice scope; or

³ This does not include limited registration, non-practising registration or student registration

- iii. a nurse who is employed, contracted or otherwise engaged by a service provider in Victoria referred to in clause 3(a), and provides evidence to that service provider of currency of competence and ongoing professional development in immunisation and who:
 - I. 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 Victoria⁴ in the approved area of practice – Immunisation; or
 - II. has satisfactorily completed the assessment of a nurse immuniser program recognised by the Chief Health Officer; or
 - III. 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
 - IV. 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
 - V. 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.
- e. The registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner administers the Schedule 4 poisons in:
 - i. the performance of their duties with the service provider in Victoria by whom they are employed or contracted; and
 - ii. accordance with the edition of the *Australian Immunisation Handbook*⁵ that is current at the time of the administration; and
 - iii. accordance with the edition of the National Vaccine Storage Guidelines: Strive for 5⁶ that is current at the time of the administration; and
 - iv. accordance with the edition of the Victorian Guidelines for the administration of vaccines by registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners¹, as issued by the Department of Health, that is current at the time of administration.

Definitions and interpretation

Indirect supervision means that the registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner must consult with the nominated supervisor as referred to in clause 3(d), with the nominated supervisor required to always be physically present in the workplace during opening hours and available during those times to observe and discuss the management of people under the care of the registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner and/or the performance of the registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner when necessary.

Authorised midwife has the same meaning as in the **Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981**

Nurse practitioner has the same meaning as in the **Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981**

Registered medical practitioner has the same meaning as in the **Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981**

⁴ This does not include limited registration, provisional registration, non-practising registration, or student registration.

⁵ Current version available online.

⁶ Current version available online.

Appendix 1: Vaccines

Diphtheria

Haemophilus influenzae type b

Hepatitis A

Hepatitis B

Herpes zoster (shingles)

Human papillomavirus

Influenza

Measles

Meningococcal ACWY

Meningococcal B

Mumps

Pertussis

Pneumococcal

Polio

Rotavirus

Rubella

Tetanus

Varicella (chickenpox)

Appendix 2: Vaccine

Japanese encephalitis

Approval is limited to people recommended for vaccination as listed on the Victorian Department of Health's Japanese encephalitis webpage⁷ at the time of administration.

Appendix 3: Vaccine

Mpox (monkeypox)/vaccinia virus

Approval is limited to people recommended for vaccination as listed on the Victorian Department of Health's Mpox webpage⁸ at the time of administration.

Appendix 4: Vaccine

SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)

Appendix 5: Vaccine or therapeutic product

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine or RSV therapeutic product as listed on the Victorian Department of Health's Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) immunisation webpage².

Approval is limited to people recommended for immunisation as listed on the Victorian Department of Health's Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) immunisation webpage² at the time of administration.

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

Dated 20 March 2024

Approved by NITSA KARAHALIOS
Director, Regulatory Compliance and Operations – Health
Delegate of the Secretary, Department of Health

⁷ Victorian Department of Health, Japanese encephalitis, available at: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases/japanese-encephalitis>

⁸ Victorian Department of Health, Mpox (monkeypox), available at: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases/mpox-monkeypox>

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