

# **IMMUNIZATIONS STATEWIDE PROTOCOL**

Adopted by the Board 11/18/2021

## **A. Introduction**

Authorized pharmacists may order and administer immunizations as outlined in the North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) 43-15-10(24) and North Dakota Administrative Code (NDAC) 61-01-14.

This protocol acknowledges that the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) guidelines, law, and prescribing information may change or conflict with the terms of this protocol. Therefore, in terms of conflict, this protocol provides the authorized pharmacist the authority to exercise their professional judgment to administer an immunization in accordance with the most current guidelines. Pharmacists who administer vaccines under this protocol shall maintain a current copy of this protocol at each location where vaccines are administered. For the purpose of this protocol, the authorized pharmacist's order shall constitute a prescription.

## **B. Purpose**

This statewide protocol is intended to ensure that immunizations may be readily obtainable by any person 3 years and older who meets the criteria established by the United States Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and/or ACIP for immunization administration.

## **C. Qualifications**

An authorized pharmacist means a pharmacist who has successfully completed an appropriate study or training pertaining to the administration of drugs and maintains continuing competency according to the standard of care. (NDCC 43-15-31.5 and NDAC 61-04-11).

## **D. Delegation**

An authorized pharmacist may delegate the administration of vaccines to an authorized pharmacy intern or a qualified pharmacy technician according to NDAC 61-04-11. The pharmacist may also delegate the administration of vaccines to a healthcare professional authorized by their respective healthcare practice act.

## **E. Authorization**

This statewide protocol authorizes the pharmacist to order and administer immunizations to patients ages 3 or older for the following:

1. Any immunization recommended by ACIP that is included in the patient's approved vaccination schedule
2. An immunization recommended by CDC for international travel
3. Any other emergency immunization in response to a public health emergency

## **F. Administration**

Prior to any vaccine administration, the pharmacist shall provide to each recipient or the recipient's legal representative a copy of the most current Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) or other required informational fact sheet. Vaccine Information Statements can be found at the CDC website or the following hyperlink: [Vaccine Information Statement | Current VISs | CDC](#)

An authorized pharmacist shall screen for contraindications/precautions and assess a patient for appropriateness of receiving a vaccine prior to ordering and administering a vaccine pursuant to the statewide protocol. This may include consultation of the North Dakota Immunization Information System (NDIIS), health information network, or appropriate medical record.

The patient or parent/guardian if younger than 18 shall provide their verbal or written consent to the pharmacist prior to receiving the immunization(s).

## **G. Reporting**

The Authorized Pharmacist or their designee must report any immunization ordered and administered to the North Dakota Immunization Information System within 14 days of administration.

The pharmacist shall report any adverse event that occurs following vaccine administration to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), even if it is unclear whether the event was caused by the vaccine. The pharmacist shall also notify the patient's primary care provider of any adverse events or reactions experienced by the patient. As a reference, one may refer to the following document found on the immunization action coalition website, [www.immunize.org](http://www.immunize.org): [VAERS Table of Reportable Events Following Vaccination](#).

## **H. Documentation**

The prescribing pharmacist must maintain records of all immunizations ordered and administered through the statewide protocol. Record of immunization shall be maintained at least 5 years from date of administration.

## **I. Management of Adverse Events**

Following vaccine administration, the pharmacist shall observe the patient for immediate adverse reaction(s) and the patient should be requested to remain in an observation area for a minimum of 15 minutes.

In the course of managing adverse events following immunization, the pharmacist shall follow the Immunization Action Coalition's Medical Management of Vaccine Reactions for the appropriate patient, which can be found below or at the website, [www.immunize.org](http://www.immunize.org).

1. [Medical Management of Vaccine Reactions in Children and Teens](#)
2. [Medical Management of Vaccine Reactions in Adults](#)

The authorized pharmacist shall maintain current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation or basic cardiac life support and have access to epinephrine and other supplies necessary to respond to a medical emergency related to vaccine administration.

## **J. Vaccine Safety**

Pharmacists must comply with OSHA regulations and applicable state law and regulations regarding the storage and disposal of injection supplies and the disposal of, and prevention of exposure to, biological hazards.

Vaccine should be prepared and administered in accordance to infection control and minimize the risk for spread of disease. Safety needles or needle-free injection devices should be used to reduce the risk for injury. To prevent inadvertent needle-stick injuries, needles and syringes shall be discarded immediately after use in approved puncture-proof container, located in the same room as vaccine administration. Needles must not be recapped before being placed in the container.