

# 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.

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 is the NIP South Australian 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.

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

Vaccines can be administered as per the National Immunisation Program (NIP): [South Australian Immunisation Schedule](#) to those aged 5 years and above, and as per the current recommendations in the online [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#).

## 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.

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

In South Australia, the Controlled Substances (Poisons) Regulation 2011, sub regulation 18(3) provides authorisation for a registered health practitioner determined by the Minister (includes pharmacists), to administer a Schedule 4 vaccine without a medical order. The authorisation is conditional to the administration being in accordance with the [Vaccine Administration Code](#) (the Code).

The pharmacist must have successfully completed an [approved immunisation education program](#), the pharmacist must be working for an [organisation that is approved by the Minister](#), and the vaccine must be administered as part of a [specified immunisation program](#). The NIPVIP is defined as a specified program.

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

**Yes.** Privately funded vaccines can be administered by a pharmacist without a medical order as per the Code and as specified in the Pharmacy Vaccination Program, with the exception of vaccines for travel and tetanus prone wounds as they are outside of the scope of the Code and the NIPVIP Program.

## 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.

## 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 determine all requirements for the NIPVIP Program and is available on the SA Health website.

## How do I order and store vaccines?

Vaccines will be available to order from 4 January 2024.

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, this is managed through the Commonwealth Government, Vaccine Operation Centre.

## Are all NIP vaccines available for the program?

**No.** Vaccines available for the program are for those aged 5 years and above as per the South Australian Immunisation Schedule.

## What are the reporting requirements under the NIPVIP?

- > Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) - It is mandatory for all NIP 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](#).
- > Cold chain breaches – All temperature excursions outside 2-8C for government funded NIP 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-Friday 0830-1700 hours.
- > 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 Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI). Report all vaccine program errors to the SA Health Immunisation Clinical Advisory Service on 1300 232 272.

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

Resources include:

- > Vaccination in Pharmacy checklist
- > [NIPVIP webpage](#)
- > [Immunisation records and registers webpage](#)
- > [Immunisation for Health Professionals webpage](#)
- > [Immunisations Resources](#)

## 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.

SA Health - [After Vaccination Information](#)

The date of the next scheduled vaccination (if applicable).

## For more information on the NIPVIP

- > National Immunisation Program Vaccinations in Pharmacy (NIPVIP) Program [Portal](#)
- > Immunisation Section, SA Health  
Phone 1300 232 272