National Immunisation Program
Vaccination in Pharmacy (NIPVIP)

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the NIPVIP Program?

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

Review the national Pharmacy Programs Administrator Portal – National Immunisation Program Vaccination 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.

You must ensure consumers are eligible for a *NIP funded* vaccine as per the NIP South Australian Immunisation Schedules prior to administering any vaccine from funded stock. A vaccine may be clinically indicated but not funded by the NIP. In this case, it cannot be given from funded NIP stock.

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 claim NIPVIP administration fees for vaccines administered to eligible consumers aged 5 years and above.

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

Vaccines can be administered as per the relevant NIP South Australian Immunisation Schedules 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. It is the pharmacist's responsibility to ensure the consumer is eligible for a NIP funded vaccine, noting not all clinically indicated vaccines are on the NIP for all cohorts.

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 Schedules. This includes meningococcal B and Japanese Encephalitis Virus (JEV) vaccines. Pharmacists are not funded under the NIPVIP to administer these. Participating pharmacies administering JEV vaccines 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.

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 NIP vaccines is regularly reviewed to ensure vaccine stock is available according to individual provider usage. This does not include the COVID-19 Vaccine Program, which is managed through the Commonwealth Government, Vaccine Operations Centre (VOC).

Are all NIP vaccines available for the NIPVIP Program?

No. Vaccines available for administration by pharmacists under the program are for those aged 5 years and above as per the NIP South Australian Immunisation Schedules.

The seasonal influenza vaccine suitable for administration to children aged from 6 months to less than 5 years of age is available for pharmacists to order through the SA Health Vaccine Distribution Centre. A NIPVIP administration payment cannot be claimed for any vaccines administered to children less than 5 years of age. See the Fact Sheet: Influenza vaccine for children aged 6 months to less than 5 years of age for more information.

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 reports AEFIs reported to them to SA Health. These can be reported the completing the SA Health online AEFI report.
- Vaccine 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˚C – 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
- National Immunisation Program 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
- Immunisation 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 and how to report any such 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 resources 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 Vaccination in Pharmacy (NIPVIP) Program Portal
- Immunisation Section, SA Health website www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/immunisationprovider or Telephone 1300 232 272