



Department for Health and Wellbeing

Vaccine Administration Code
October 2025

V 2.3



Government
of South Australia

SA Health

Version control

Version	Effective from	Effective to	Change summary
V 1.0	June 2013	February 2015	Development of the Code
V 1.1	February 2015	August 2015	Addition of pharmacists as a registered health practitioner to administer influenza vaccine from 16 years of age
V 1.2	August 2015	August 2016	DTPa added to the list of S4 drugs in Schedule 1
V 1.3	August 2016	March 2017	Addition of new Appendix 1 listing approved training programs Addition of training program for midwives and for adult vaccination. S4 drugs changed to Appendix 2
V 1.4	March 2017	December 2017	Expanded pharmacist scope of practice to include MMR and dTpa/IPV vaccines
V 1.5	December 2017	February 2018	Removal of requirement for completing a training program every three years
V 1.6	February 2018	October 2018	Addition of meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine and removal of meningococcal C conjugate vaccine to Appendix 2 - S4 drugs
V 1.7	October 2018	March 2020	Addition of meningococcal B recombinant vaccine and meningococcal C conjugate vaccine
V 1.8	March 2020	February 2021	Expanded pharmacist scope of practice to administer influenza vaccine to those from 10 years of age from 16 years of age List of approved immunisation training programs in SA, removed from the Code in Schedule 1 and published on SA Health website
V 1.9	February 2021	December 2021	Addition of administration of COVID-19 vaccine, training programs required to Appendix 1 COVID-19 added to Appendix 2 – S4 drugs
V 1.10	December 2021	April 2022	Addition of ATSIHP as a registered health practitioner Removal of COVID-19 from Appendix 2 – S4 drugs
V 1.11	April 2022	April 2023	Expanded pharmacist scope of practice to administer influenza vaccine to those from 5 years of age from 10 years of age Addition of version control table
V 2.0	April 2023	December 2023	Formatting and numbering updated. Expanded pharmacist scope of practice to administer to include the following. 5 years and older: Japanese encephalitis vaccine 10 years and older: measles/mumps/rubella (in combination), diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus (adult formulation in combination), diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus/polio (adult formulation in combination), inactivated polio, meningococcal ACWY, <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type B (Hib), hepatitis A, hepatitis B, hepatitis A and B in combination, meningococcal B, human papillomavirus (HPV), varicella only (chickenpox)

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			50 years and older: herpes zoster (Shingrix). COVID-19 added to Appendix 2 – S4 drugs
V2.1	December 2023	January 2025	Expanded pharmacist scope to administer National Immunisation Program vaccines, from 5 years of age and as per the South Australian National Immunisation Program Schedule.
V2.2	January 2025	October 2025	Addition of administration of RSV vaccine, RSV vaccine added to Appendix 2 – S4 drugs Removal of pharmacists from the VAC (now covered by new regulation 18(3a) of the poisons regulations)
V2.3	October 2025	Current	Corrected V2.1 to be current until January 2025 from September 2024, in the version control table. Amended to replace pneumococcal conjugate 13 valent vaccine and Pneumococcal polysaccharide 23 valent vaccine with pneumococcal vaccine in appendix 2 of the code. Amended to replace Meningococcal B recombinant vaccine, Meningococcal C conjugate vaccine and Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine with Meningococcal vaccine in appendix 2 of the code.

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1. Scope

Section 18(1d)(a)(iii) of the *Controlled Substances Act 1984* (the Act) authorises a registered health practitioner to administer a prescription drug (not being a drug of dependence), hereafter referred to as an S4 drug, to a person if the practitioner is acting in the ordinary course of the practitioner's profession and the practitioner is authorised to administer the drug by the regulations. For the purposes of section 18(1d)(a)(iii) of the Act, regulation 18(3) of the *Controlled Substances (Poisons) Regulations 2011* (the Regulations) authorises a registered health practitioner of a class determined by the Minister, to administer an S4 drug if the administration is in accordance with the requirements of the Vaccine Administration Code (the Code) published by the South Australian Department for Health and Wellbeing, and provided that all the other requirements of regulation 18(3) are met.

The Code is published under the authority of the Chief Executive of the Department for Health and Wellbeing and is to be read in conjunction with the relevant provisions of the Act and the Regulations.

2. Interpretation

In this Code unless the contrary intention appears—

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner means a person registered under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law*, in Schedule 2 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (South Australia) Act 2010*, to practise in the health profession of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice profession as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner, Aboriginal health practitioner and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner (other than as a student);

midwife means a person registered under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law*—

(a) to practise in the nursing and midwifery profession as a midwife (other than as a student); and

(b) in the register of midwives kept for that profession;

pharmacist means a person registered under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law* to practise in the pharmacy profession (other than as a student);

registered health practitioner means an individual who is registered under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law* to practise a health profession (other than as a student);

registered nurse means a person registered under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law*—

(a) to practise in the nursing and midwifery profession as a nurse (other than as a student); and

(b) in the registered nurses division of that profession;

S4 drug means a prescription drug (not being a drug of dependence).

3. Application

This Code applies to the administration of an S4 drug by a registered health practitioner of a class determined by the Minister, for the purposes of regulation 18(3) of the Regulations.

A registered health practitioner of a class determined by the Minister includes registered nurses, midwives and pharmacists and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners.

4. Administration of S4 drugs under the Code

The registered health practitioner may only administer the S4 drug(s) as specified in Appendix 1 to the Code and subject to the specified conditions; or an S4 drug that may be approved by the Minister and published on the SA Health website at www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/immunisationprovider.

5. Specified Immunisation Programs

The S4 drug must be administered as part of a specified immunisation program as published on the SA Health website at www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/immunisationprovider and administered in accordance with the recommendations in the Australian Immunisation Handbook published by the Commonwealth Department of Health as in force from time to time.

6. Approved training programs

The registered health practitioner must have successfully completed a training program(s) approved by the Minister for the purposes of regulation 18(3)(a), as published on the SA Health website at www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/immunisationprovider.

7. Approved organisations

The organisations approved by the Minister for the purposes of regulation 18(3)(c)(i)(ii) are published on the SA Health website at www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/immunisationprovider.

Appendix 1

Column 1 – Class of registered health practitioner	Column 2 – S4 drugs that may be administered	Column 3 - Conditions
Registered nurses who have successfully completed an approved immunisation education program as published on the SA Health website www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/immunisationprovider	Either singly or in combination, the S4 drugs listed in Appendix 2 to the Code or an S4 drug approved by the Minister	
Registered nurses who have successfully completed an approved adult immunisation education program (≥ 16 years of age) as published on the SA Health website www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/immunisationprovider	Either singly or in combination, the S4 drugs listed in Appendix 2 to the Code or an S4 drug approved by the Minister	The S4 drug must not be administered to a person under the age of 16 years
Midwives who have successfully completed approved immunisation education program as published on the SA Health website www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/immunisationprovider	<p>Either singly or in combination, the following S4 drugs—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hepatitis B vaccine • Influenza vaccine • Measles vaccine • Mumps vaccine • Rubella vaccine • RSV vaccine <p>Only in combination, the adult formulation of the following S4 drugs—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diphtheria vaccine • Pertussis vaccine • Tetanus vaccine. 	<p>The child formulation of Hepatitis B vaccine may only be administered up to the 7th day from birth.</p> <p>The Hepatitis B, Measles, Mumps or Rubella vaccine may only be administered pre or post pregnancy following appropriate screening, but not during pregnancy.</p> <p>An adult formulation S4 drug must not be administered to a person under the age of 16 years.</p>
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners who have successfully completed approved immunisation education program as published on the SA Health website www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/immunisationprovider	Either singly or in combination, the S4 drugs listed in Appendix 2 to the Code or an S4 drug approved by the Minister	

Appendix 2

S4 drugs
COVID-19 vaccine
Diphtheria vaccine, child or adult formulation
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b vaccine
Hepatitis A vaccine, child or adult formulation
Hepatitis B vaccine, child or adult formulation
Human papillomavirus vaccine
Influenza vaccine, child or adult formulation
Measles vaccine
Meningococcal vaccine
Mumps vaccine
Pertussis vaccine, child or adult formulation
Pneumococcal vaccine
Poliomyelitis vaccine
Rotavirus vaccine
Respiratory syncytial virus vaccine
Rubella vaccine
Tetanus vaccine, child or adult formulation
Varicella zoster virus vaccine
Other S4 drugs as approved by the Minister to take account of a particular outbreak or situation. The other S4 drugs approved by the Minister are listed on the SA Health website at www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/immunisationprovider .

Attachment 1

Controlled Substances (Poisons) Regulations 2011 **Application of Part 4 of Act (general offences)—Part 3**

(3) For the purposes of section 18(1d)(a)(iii) of the Act, a registered health practitioner of a class determined by the Minister may administer a prescription drug (not being a drug of dependence) to a person if—

(a) the registered health practitioner has successfully completed a training program approved by the Minister from time to time for the purposes of this subregulation; and

(b) the drug is listed in the Vaccine Administration Code or is a drug approved by the Minister from time to time for the purposes of this subregulation; and

(c) the drug is administered as part of—

(i) an immunisation program delivered by—

(A) an incorporated hospital; or

(B) SAAS; or

(C) a council or council subsidiary; or

(ii) an immunisation program delivered by an organisation approved by the Minister for the purposes of this subregulation; and

(d) the drug is administered in accordance with—

(i) the Vaccine Administration Code; and

(ii) —

(A) in the case of a drug administered as part of the *National Immunisation Program*—the *National Immunisation Program Schedule* and the *Australian Immunisation Handbook*;

or (B) in any other case—requirements specified by the Minister.

(4) In this regulation—

Australian Immunisation Handbook means *The Australian Immunisation Handbook* published by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing, as in force from time to time;

National Immunisation Program Schedule means the *National Immunisation Program Schedule* published by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing, as in force from time to time.