

Medicines and Poisons Act 2019

Extended Practice Authority 'Pharmacists'



**Queensland
Government**

Version control

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Extended Practice Authority ‘Pharmacists’

This extended practice authority (EPA) has been made by the Director-General, Queensland Health under section 232 of the *Medicines and Poisons Act 2019*. It states the scope of the regulated activities with the regulated substances which a pharmacist is authorised to carry out for the purposes described in the table under Schedule 9, Part 1 of the Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Regulation 2021.

A term used in this EPA that is defined in the *Medicines and Poisons Act 2019* or the Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Regulation 2021, has the meaning stated in the *Medicines and Poisons Act 2019* or Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Regulation 2021.

Part 1 – Vaccinations - Circumstances and conditions

1. A pharmacist who has successfully completed training in accordance with Appendix 1, may administer a medicine listed in Appendix 2, Column 1:
 - a. by a route of administration for the medicine stated in the current online edition of the *Australian Immunisation Handbook*¹, or as stated in the product information approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA); and
 - b. subject to the restrictions (if any) for the medicine stated in Appendix 2, Column 2.
2. The pharmacist may administer the medicines only at:
 - a. a community pharmacy that meets the requirements in Appendix 3; or
 - b. a public sector hospital.
3. Before vaccines are administered, the pharmacist must ensure the equipment and procedures detailed in the current online edition of the Australian Immunisation Handbook are in place.
4. The pharmacist must act in accordance with the requirements for vaccine administration in the current online edition of the *Australian Immunisation Handbook* including patient selection, patient consent, vaccine administration, documenting vaccination and follow up care.
5. When vaccines are in the possession of the pharmacist, the pharmacist must ensure that the storage and transport of vaccines is in accordance with the *National vaccine storage guidelines: Strive for 5*².

¹ *Australian Immunisation Handbook* - <https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/>

² *National vaccine storage guidelines – Strive for 5* - https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/national-vaccine-storage-guidelines-strive-for-5_0.pdf

6. Before administering a vaccine, the pharmacist must be familiar with the contra-indication(s) and known side effects of the medicine and advise the patient accordingly.
7. The pharmacist must advise a patient if a vaccine they propose to administer is listed in the National Immunisation Program (NIP) Schedule and of the cost to the patient for the vaccine (if any) because it will not be funded by the NIP.
8. The pharmacist administering a vaccine must ensure that:
 - a. all vaccinations are recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register³ in accordance with the requirements under the *Australian Immunisation Register Act 2015* (Cth) as soon as practicable and ideally at the time of vaccination; and
 - b. any adverse events occurring following immunisation must be notified using the Adverse Event Following Immunisation (AEFI) reporting form available on the Queensland Health website⁴.

³ Australian Immunisation Register - <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/organisations/health-professionals/forms/im004>

⁴ Adverse Event Following Immunisation reporting form - https://www.health.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0033/442968/ae-fi-reporting-form.pdf

Part 2 - Urinary Tract Infection Community Pharmacy Service

Circumstances and conditions

1. A pharmacist who has successfully completed training in accordance with Appendix 1 may sell a medicine listed in Appendix 4, Column 1 of this Extended Practice Authority to a patient without the requirement for a prescription:
 - a. subject to the restrictions for the medicine stated opposite in Appendix 4, Column 2 (if any); and
 - b. in accordance with relevant professional practice standards for the provision of antibiotics for acute uncomplicated cystitis in females.
2. The pharmacist must maintain eligibility to provide the service, including any ongoing training and registration requirements.
3. The pharmacist may sell the medicines only at a community pharmacy that includes a screened or private consulting area that:
 - a. ensures patients' privacy and confidentiality;
 - b. has sufficient space to allow the presence of the following: the patient; a carer if necessary; equipment; and documentation; and
 - c. has seating for the patient and their carer.
4. The pharmacist must not sell a medicine specified in Appendix 4, Column 1 of this Extended Practice Authority in a quantity that exceeds the smallest available size of the manufacturer's pack of the medicine.
5. The pharmacist must, when selling a medicine under this Extended Practice Authority, keep a clinical record in accordance with relevant legislation and professional responsibilities. This clinical record must include relevant patient health history, problems identified, actions taken (including the name of the medicine if supplied as well as the form, strength and amount), date and details of contact with other healthcare professionals, and the outcomes of any actions taken.
6. The pharmacist is to make available to the patient a copy of the record of the service.

Appendix 1

Vaccination training

Pharmacists must meet both requirements specified below.

1. Successful completion of either of the following qualifications:
 - a. the training program for the Queensland Pharmacist Immunisation Pilot I and II (QPIP I & II); or
 - b. a training program accredited to meet the standards set by the Australian Pharmacy Council's 'Standards for the accreditation of programs to support Pharmacist Administration of vaccines'.
2. A current Australian recognised qualification in first aid which includes cardiopulmonary resuscitation and anaphylaxis management or a current first aid certificate and a current certificate in anaphylaxis management.

Urinary tract infection training

Pharmacists must meet the requirements specified below.

1. Successful completion of one of the following:
 - a. The training program developed for the Urinary Tract Infection Pharmacy Pilot – Queensland;
 - b. Training delivered through a higher accreditation institution accredited by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency; or
 - c. An accredited continuing professional development program, delivered by a training provider that meets the Australian Pharmacy Council's Standards for Continuing Professional Development Activities.

The study program must include classification and epidemiology of urinary tract infections, anatomy, pathogenesis, assessment and differential diagnosis, treatment and the urinary tract infection community pharmacy service.

Appendix 2 - Medicines for vaccinations

Vaccinations	
Scheduled substance	Restrictions/Conditions
Influenza vaccine	Persons aged 10 years or over
Diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis vaccine	Persons aged 16 years or over
Diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis-inactivated poliovirus vaccine	Persons aged 16 years or over
Measles-mumps-rubella vaccine	Persons aged 16 years or over
Cholera vaccine	Persons aged 16 years or over
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type B vaccine	Persons aged 16 years or over
Hepatitis A vaccine	Persons aged 16 years or over
Meningococcal ACWY vaccine	Persons aged 10 years or over
Poliomyelitis vaccine	Persons aged 16 years or over
Pneumococcal vaccine	Persons aged 16 years and over
COVID-19 vaccine	Persons aged 16 years and over Comply with any other limitations in the product information or as determined by the Therapeutic Goods Administration approval for the vaccines that may apply
Adrenaline in a strength of 0.1% or less <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in a preloaded device such as an autoinjector, or • in an ampoule 	For use in treatment of anaphylaxis only

Appendix 3 - Community pharmacy requirements

A pharmacist undertaking regulated activities at a community pharmacy, must only act under authority of this EPA in a community pharmacy that has the following facilities and resources:

2. A screened or private consulting area that:
 - a. ensures patients' privacy and confidentiality;
 - b. has sufficient space to allow the presence of the following: the patient; a carer if necessary; the pharmacist administering the vaccine; consumables; equipment; and documentation;
 - c. has seating for the patient and their carer during the vaccination; and
 - d. has sufficient space and appropriate surfaces for the patient to lie down in the event of an adverse reaction; and for staff to safely perform resuscitation procedures.
3. An area with seating that provides for direct visual observation where patients can wait for at least 15 minutes following the vaccination.
4. Hand washing facilities/hand sanitising products available to allow for the performance of appropriate hand hygiene before and after vaccine administration.
5. Enough appropriately trained pharmacy staff to ensure patients' safety during post-vaccination monitoring and any adverse event management. Ideally the pharmacy will have two pharmacists available at any one time – one to act as the dedicated vaccinator and the other to manage the general business of the dispensary. Pharmacies with only one pharmacist on duty must assess their workflows to ensure they are able to provide uninterrupted care to an individual patient when vaccinating and have staff on-site with current training in first aid (including cardiopulmonary resuscitation and management of anaphylaxis) that can assist in providing after-vaccination care or managing an emergency.

Appendix 4: Medicines for Urinary Tract Infection Community Pharmacy Service

Medicines for Urinary Tract Infection Community Pharmacy Service	
Scheduled substance	Restrictions/Conditions
Trimethoprim	
Nitrofurantoin	Sale and supply limited to circumstances where trimethoprim is not appropriate for the patient
Cefalexin	Sale and supply limited to circumstances where trimethoprim and nitrofurantoin are not appropriate for the patient