

Vermont Pharmacist Prescribing Protocol – ACIP Recommended Vaccines

Background

For patients 18 years of age and over, a pharmacist may prescribe, order, or administer vaccines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) in a manner consistent with a valid State protocol approved by the Commissioner of Health, after consultation with the Director of Professional Regulation and the Board of Pharmacy (BOP). 26 V.S.A. § 2023(b)(2)(A)(vii).

Pharmacists who independently prescribe ACIP-recommended vaccines must follow this protocol. When prescribing per this protocol, the pharmacist is the prescriber-of-record.

Definitions

“ACIP-Recommended Vaccine” means a vaccine for the prevention and control of disease, approved by the US Food and Drug Administration’s Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, and listed in the Centers for Disease Control’s Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations.

“Recipient” means the person, 18 years of age and older, to whom an ACIP-recommended vaccine is being prescribed and administered.

General considerations

Prescribing and administering an ACIP-recommended vaccine under this protocol requires the pharmacist to:

1. Have training and education in these areas sufficient to perform the duties involved.
2. Comply with immunization registry and adverse reaction reporting requirements described in 18 V.S.A. § 1129 and 18 V.S.A. § 1132.
3. Document prescribing and administration of the vaccine.
4. Keep a written copy of the protocol at each location at which prescribing or administration of an ACIP-recommended vaccine occurs.
5. Provide a copy of the protocol available upon the request of an inspector.
6. Be prepared to respond to adverse vaccine reactions, as described in the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s best practice guidelines for preventing and managing adverse reactions to immunization.

Procedures

When an individual requests an ACIP-recommended vaccine, or when a pharmacist in his or her professional judgement offers to prescribe and/or administer an ACIP-recommended vaccine to an individual, the pharmacist shall:

1. Screen for contraindications to receiving the vaccination, as described in the most current ACIP recommendations. (If a contraindication exists, the vaccine should not be prescribed or administered.)
2. Direct the patient to the separate pharmacy area where immunizations are provided.
3. Administer the vaccine in accordance with the most current ACIP-approved immunization schedule for the selected vaccine.
4. Provide the recipient with the most updated Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) for the vaccine administered.
5. Report the administration of the vaccine to the immunization registry.

Authorized Drugs

Prescribing and dispensing done pursuant to this protocol is limited to FDA-approved vaccines.

Prescribing Records

The pharmacist must generate a written or electronic prescription for any ACIP-recommended vaccine administered pursuant to protocol-base prescribing. The prescription must include all the information required by Administrative Rule 10.1. The prescription must be processed in the same manner that any other prescription is processed, pursuant to the applicable statutes and rules for the dispensing of prescription drugs. The prescription shall be kept on file and maintained for a minimum of three years, as required by the rules of the Vermont BOP. Pharmacists are reminded to adhere to recordkeeping requirements for prescriptions paid for by Medicare and Medicaid as well as recordkeeping required by BOP.


Resources can be found on OPR’s “Pharmacy Statutes, Rules & Resources” webpage.

APPROVED:



Commissioner, Vermont Department of Health

Date: 10/3/23



Director, Office of Professional Regulation

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