

Vermont Pharmacist Prescribing Protocol
Recommended Immunizations to patients 18 years and older

Background

A pharmacist may prescribe, order, or administer recommended immunizations to patients 18 years and over in a manner consistent with a valid State protocol under 26 V.S.A. § 2023(b)(2)(A)(vii) and with recommendations of the Commissioner of Health under 18 V.S.A. § 1130a.

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

Definition

“Recommended Immunization” means a vaccine or other immunizing agent that provides protection against a particular disease or pathogen and the application of the immunization as recommended by the practice guidelines for children and adults established by the Commissioner of Health under 18 V.S.A. § 1130.

General considerations

Prescribing and administering recommended immunizations 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 1132;
3. Document prescribing and administration of the immunization;
4. Keep a written copy of this protocol at each pharmacy location where recommended immunizations are prescribed or administered under this protocol;
5. Provide a copy of this protocol upon the request of an inspector; and
6. Be prepared to respond to adverse 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 aged 18 years or over requests a recommended immunization, or when a pharmacist in their professional judgment offers to prescribe a recommended immunization to an individual aged 18 years or over, the pharmacist shall:

1. Screen for contraindications to receiving the immunization, as described in the Commissioner's recommendations under 18 V.S.A. § 1130a (if contraindication exists, no vaccine should be prescribed or administered);
2. Provide the patient with the most updated Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) for the immunization administered; and
3. Administer the immunization in accordance with the recommendations of the Commissioner under 18 V.S.A. § 1130a.

Authorized Drugs

Prescribing and dispensing under this protocol is limited to FDA-approved vaccines or immunizing agents.

Prescribing Records

The pharmacist must generate a written or electronic prescription for any recommended immunization administered pursuant to protocol-base prescribing. The prescription must:

- include all the information required by Administrative Rule 8 -10;
- 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; and
- be kept on file and maintained for at least three years, as required by the rules of the Vermont Board of Pharmacy.

Pharmacists are reminded to adhere to record-keeping requirements for prescriptions paid for by Medicare and Medicaid, which may differ from those of the Board.

APPROVED:



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Date: 7/23/2026

Signed by:



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Jennifer B. Colin

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