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Vermont Pharmacist Prescribing Protocol – COVID-19 and Influenza Vaccinations, ages 5 years and over

Background

A pharmacist may prescribe, order, or administer COVID-19 and influenza vaccines to patients aged 5 years and over 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)(viii). Pharmacists who independently prescribe COVID-19 or influenza vaccines must follow this protocol. When prescribing per this protocol, the pharmacist is the prescriber-of-record.

Definitions

“Influenza vaccine” means a vaccine for the prevention and control of seasonal influenza, 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, for the current influenza season.

“COVID-19 Vaccine” means a vaccine, approved by the US Food and Drug Administration’s Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (FDA’s CBER), for the prevention and control of SARS-CoV-2, and listed in the Centers for Disease Control’s Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations, for the current influenza season.

“Recipient” means the person, 5 to 17 years of age, to whom a COVID-19 or influenza vaccine is being supplied.

General considerations

Prescribing a COVID-19 or influenza vaccine under this protocol requires the pharmacist to:

1. Have training and education sufficient to perform the duties involved in this protocol.
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 in the patient’s prescription record.
4. Keep a written copy of this protocol at each location where COVID-19 or influenza vaccines occur.
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 a request for a COVID-19 or influenza vaccine is made, or when a pharmacist in his or her professional judgement offers to prescribe a COVID-19 or influenza vaccine to an individual ages 5 and up, the pharmacist shall:

1. Screen for contraindications to receiving a COVID-19 or influenza vaccination, as described in the current season’s ACIP recommendations. If contraindication exists, no vaccine should be prescribed or administered.
2. Provide to the parent or guardian, of the recipient, the most updated Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) for the vaccine administered.

- Determine if the patient has pediatric primary care clinician (PCP) and encourage them to seek routine well-child visits. If the patient does not have a PCP, provide referral to patient for finding primary care services, such as VT-211 or, for Medicaid beneficiaries, the Vermont Medicaid Provider lookup.


Authorized Drugs

Prescribing and dispensing done pursuant to this protocol is limited to FDA-approved COVID-19 and influenza vaccines.

Prescribing Records

The pharmacist must generate a written or electronic prescription for any COVID-19 or influenza vaccine administered pursuant to protocol-base prescribing. The prescription must include all the information required by Pharmacy 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 as required by the rules of the Vermont BOP. Pharmacists are reminded to adhere to record-keeping requirements for prescriptions paid for by Medicare and Medicaid, which may differ from those required by BOP.

APPROVED:



Commissioner, Vermont Department of Health

Date: 9/26/2024



Director, Office of Professional Regulation

Date: 17 OCT 2024