

# PHARMACY IMMUNIZATION FAQs



Effective November 20, 2019, 2019 Wisconsin Act 24 allows pharmacists to administer certain vaccines without a vaccine protocol and administer vaccines to children under the age of 6 with a prescription order, while also changing Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR) reporting requirements.

## **What vaccines can a pharmacist or pharmacy student administer without a vaccine protocol?**

Pharmacists who completed an immunization administration training and pharmacy students who have completed their second year of pharmacy school and completed an immunization administration training can administer, without a vaccine protocol or prescription order, any vaccine listed in the current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice's (ACIP) [immunization schedules](#), published by the CDC, to any patient age 6 or older.

## **Can pharmacists and pharmacy students administer non-ACIP vaccines?**

Yes, pharmacists who completed an immunization administration training and pharmacy students who have completed their second year of pharmacy school and completed an immunization administration training can administer non-ACIP vaccines with a protocol, standing order, or a prescription order to a patient age 6 or older.

## **What training is required of pharmacists and pharmacy students to administer vaccines?**

Pharmacists and pharmacy students must complete a 12-hour training course approved by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education in vaccination storage, protocols, administration technique, emergency procedures, and record keeping. When immunizing children aged 6 and older, the training requirements have not changed from previous requirements.

Pharmacy students may only administer vaccines under the direct supervision of a pharmacist who has also completed the training.

PSW offers an immunization delivery training course periodically. Information will be shared via *FastFacts* and other PSW communications as the program is scheduled.

### **When can pharmacists administer vaccines to children under age 6?**

Pharmacists may immunize patients under the age of 6 with a prescription order that was issued 29 days or less before the date the immunization is administered. In order to immunize children under age 6, the pharmacist must complete a training program that includes training in administering vaccines to children under age 6.

Pharmacy students cannot immunize a patient under the age of 6.

### **Does PSW offer training in immunizing children under age 6?**

PSW training that meets the requirements of the law for immunizing children under age 6 is in development. Information will be shared via *FastFacts* and other PSW communications as the program becomes available.

### **Can pharmacy students immunize children under age 6?**

No, only licensed pharmacists may immunize children under age 6.

### **Do pharmacies need to upload immunization data to the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR)?**

Yes, pharmacies – regardless of whether they administer vaccines pursuant to protocol, prescription, or ACIP guidelines – must update the Wisconsin Immunization Registry within 7 days of administering the vaccine.

### **I have questions about uploading data to WIR. Who can I contact?**

Please reach out to the WIR Help Desk at 608-266-9691 or [dhswirhelp@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:dhswirhelp@dhs.wisconsin.gov).

### **When billing, who is listed as the prescriber if the pharmacist administers a vaccine without a protocol or prescription order?**

Pharmacists should indicate their NPI as the prescriber of record. Other states with similar laws have indicated billing and audits have not been an issue when recording the pharmacist as the prescriber, so long as the pharmacy complies with all other components of the law.

### **Does the bill eliminate the need for immunization emergency response protocols (example: diphenhydramine, epinephrine)?**

No, pharmacists or pharmacy students who have completed their second year of pharmacy school who wish to administer diphenhydramine or epinephrine must have a protocol in place for the prescribing of these products and must complete non-vaccine injection training, as required by [Wis. Stat. 450.035\(1r\)](#) in order to administer injectable medications.