



Medical Practitioner Vaccine Administration Orders for Practice Nurses

Medical Practitioner Vaccine Administration Orders (MPVAOs) allows gps to delegate immunisation responsibilities and enable practice nurses to provide vaccination to children less than 5 years of age, without first requiring a gp examination.

The use of the vaccine administration orders can increase gp practice's immunisation rates and save the gp valuable time while still providing protection to patients.

MPVAOs have been developed by the Immunisation Section, Western Australian (WA) Department of Health, for use by practice nurses in Western Australia providing immunisation services. The MPVAOs are consistent with the NHMRC Australian Immunisation Handbook – 9th Edition 2008 to assist immunisation nurses as best practice principles.

MPVAOs provides the gp practice with the mechanism to enable an authorized person to handle and administer specific S4 drugs once the gp has seen the patient initially, in this case – vaccines used in immunisation programs with an already prescribed medication order. These model MPVAOs must always be used in conjunction with the NHMRC Australian Immunisation Handbook – 9th Edition 2008.

While it is recommended that gp practices promote and implement the MPVAO in their practices providing immunisation services, an organization **must** authorize the establishment of the MPVAOs to support their immunisation service.

How to use the MPAOs

To ensure consistency in immunisation policy in WA, each valid MPVAO must:

- Be printed on Department of Health visual identity formatted letter head or be printed under the organizations logo (this can be implemented by an appropriate letter on the organizations letterhead that can accompany a copy of the signed MPVAO)
- Be signed and dated for authorization by a Medical Practitioner

RNs using the MPVAOs must be competent and safe to practice in immunisation, as it is not sufficient to follow MPVAOs alone without the necessary skills and knowledge in this field.

Minimum requirements for a person administering vaccines under MPAOs

1. Competence in the provision of immunisation services and an ability to demonstrate autonomy and accountability for safe nursing practice. This may be demonstrated by:
 - an in depth knowledge and demonstrated skills of the different vaccines in use (in the WA 2010 vaccination schedule) in relation to safe practice ie – pre vaccination assessment criteria for vaccination – valid consent procedure – precautions and contraindications of vaccines – correct recommended methods of administration for each vaccine- current injection technique – recognition of possible adverse events following immunisation and treatment (eg adrenalin) – drug interactions
 - demonstrated knowledge of safe storage and disposal of vaccines (cold chain)
 - documentation with the use of relevant software when appropriate
 - an understanding of the bodies immune system
 - an understanding of the relevant vaccine preventable diseases





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- knowledge and use of current recommendations, policy changes and an awareness of the latest statistics and research
 - skills in identifying and targeting particular 'at risk' groups
2. A working knowledge of the NHMRC 2008 The Australian Immunisation Handbook (9th Edition).
 3. Skills in Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and the management of anaphylaxis, which require updating annually.
 4. Be able to maintain competence and currency of knowledge of vaccination practice by (mandatory) reviewing of clinical practice and participation in relevant continuing education including but not limited to:
 - attending annual seminars/updates
 - regularly reviewing of immunisation policies and procedures
 - attending other relevant educational conferences as appropriate

How to implement these model MPVAOs in your organization

These model MPVAOs must be used in conjunction with the NHMRC Australian Immunisation Handbook (9th Edition) 2008. In order for each gp practice to adopt these MPAOs they must be printed on the individual organizations letter head (this can be a covering letter on the organizations letterhead accompanying a copy of the signed MPVAOs) or be printed as is on Department of Health visual identity formatted letter head and have the relevant signature/s completed for each MPVAOs and dated for authorization.

Note: Any hand written amendments to the MPVAOs after the signature/s have been added will invalidate the MPVAO.

Validity

The MPVAOs are valid for a period of 12 months from the date of the medical officer's authorization. The authority applies to vaccines currently listed in the WA 2010 Immunisation Schedule, either singularly or in combination. This authorization **must** be filed in the patient/persons file. Under section 36B of the Poisons Regulation 1965; Record of supply or administration of substances included in Schedule 4, a record required to be made under regulation (1) must be – (a) kept for at least 2 years from the date on which the substance was supplied or administered; and (b) made available for inspection on request by an authorized officer.

This Medical Practitioner Vaccine Administration Order for practice nurses to give S4 immunisation schedule vaccines can only be used if the practice nurse has completed the Department of Health's Accredited Immunisation Certification Course

References

- NHMRC 2008 The Australian Immunisation Handbook, 9th edition
- Requirements for the prescribing of Schedule 4 and Schedule 8 medicines in Western Australia, Pharmaceutical Services Branch , 2008

