Operational Directive

Subject: VACCINE ADMINISTRATION CODE: MUMPS OUTBREAK 2015-2016

The current mumps outbreak in Western Australian necessitates additional measures to efficiently provide prophylactic immunisation in affected communities to assist in controlling disease spread.

This Operational Directive authorises immunisation with the mumps vaccine by registered nurses under Poisons Regulation 37B and the Vaccine Administration Code.

This authority is valid until 31 December 2016.

Regulation 37B removes the requirement for the direction of medical practitioner to approve administration of a vaccine. This applies when vaccine administration is performed by a registered nurse with approved training, as part of a public health program, and when in accordance with the Vaccine Administration Code.

The Vaccine Administration Code establishes the criteria which must be achieved by a registered nurse or midwife to administer a vaccine in accordance with Regulation 37B of the Western Australian Poisons Regulation 1965.

Dr David Russell-Weisz
DIRECTOR GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WA

This information is available in alternative formats for a person with a disability.
Foreword

The Vaccine Administration Code establishes the criteria which must be achieved by a registered nurse or midwife to administer a vaccine in accordance with Regulation 37B of the Poisons Regulation 1965.

The Code, prepared by the Public Health Division of the Western Australian (WA) Department of Health, is published under the authority of the Chief Executive Officer of the Department, and is to be read in conjunction with the relevant provisions of the Poisons Regulations 1965.

1. Citation

This Code may be cited as the Vaccine Administration Code.

2. Definitions

“Registered Midwife” means a person who is registered under the Health Practitioner National Law (WA) Act 2010 in the nursing and midwifery profession and whose name is entered on the Register of Midwives kept under that Law.

“Registered Nurse” means a person who is registered under the Health Practitioner National Law (WA) Act 2010 in the nursing and midwifery profession and whose name is entered on Division 1 of the Register of Nurses kept under that Law as a registered nurse.

“Western Australian Immunisation Schedule” is the current list of vaccines published by the Public Health and Clinical Services Division, Department of Health and which lists the government-funded early childhood, school program and adult vaccines.

“Operational Directive 0388” is the Department of Health Operational Directive entitled Health Care Worker Immunisation Policy, dated 5 September 2012 or as amended from time to time.

“Operational Directive 0600” is the Department of Health Operational Directive entitled Influenza and Pertussis Vaccinations for Pregnant Women, dated 13 May 2015 or as amended from time to time.

3. **Administration**

All sites where vaccination is being conducted must be appropriately equipped to treat patients in the event of an anaphylactic reaction.

Registered nurses may administer vaccines included on the current Western Australian Immunisation Schedule or those vaccines recommended for immunisation of health care workers by Operational Directive 0388.

Registered nurses may administer mumps vaccines outside the Western Australian Immunisation Schedule in accordance with Operational Directive 0642.

Midwives may administer vaccines recommended for immunisation of pregnant women by Operational Directive 600.

The vaccine administered must also be included in Appendix B of the Poisons Regulations 1965.

4. **Storage**

Vaccines must be stored securely to prevent access by unauthorised persons.

The storage and transport of the vaccines must be in accordance with the National Vaccine Storage Guidelines: Strive for 5, published by the Commonwealth of Australia.

5. **Consent**

Valid consent (written or documented verbal) must be obtained from the person, a parent or guardian, before each vaccination.

6. **Adverse Events**

If an adverse event following immunisation occurs, a medical practitioner must be consulted and the reaction notified to the Department of Health in accordance with the Health (Notification of Adverse Event after Immunisation) Regulations 1995.
7. Records

A registered nurse or midwife is to make a record of every occasion on which a vaccine is administered to a person. The record is to include the:

a. Name, quantity and batch number of the vaccine administered;
b. Name, address, date of birth and gender of the person to whom the vaccine was administered;
c. Date on which the vaccine was administered;
d. Name and signature of the registered nurse or midwife.

The record must be kept for at least 2 years from the date on which the vaccine was administered.

8. Training

All registered nurses and midwives administering a vaccine in accordance with Regulation 37B must have successfully completed an immunisation course endorsed by the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Health or an equivalent course provided by a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) or a university and must maintain their competency through yearly updates.

The required competencies are demonstrated knowledge and understanding in:

a. The storage, transport and handling of vaccines (cold chain);
b. Obtaining informed consent for vaccination;
c. Indications and contraindications for vaccination;
d. Administration of vaccines as per National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Immunisation Guidelines;
e. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR);
f. The diagnosis and management of anaphylaxis;
g. Documentation of vaccination and any critical incidents.

Version 5, current as at January 2016.
Delivering a Healthy WA
Vaccine Administration Code: Mumps Outbreak 2015-2016
1. Background

There is currently a mumps outbreak occurring in Western Australian. Outbreak control efforts necessitate additional measures to efficiently provide prophylactic immunisation in affected communities.

This Operational Directive authorises immunisation with mumps vaccine, for the duration of the outbreak, as part of a public health program by registered nurses operating under the power of Poisons Regulation 37B when in accordance with the Vaccine Administration Code.

Regulation 37B removes the requirement for the direction of a medical practitioner to approve the administration of a vaccine. This exemption applies when administration is performed by a registered nurse with approved training, as part of public health immunisation programs, and when in accordance with the Vaccine Administration Code.

2. Scope

The Operational Directive WA Vaccination Code: Mumps Outbreak 2015-2016 authorises the administration of mumps-containing vaccines (MMR or MMRV) in line with the Vaccine Administration Code, but outside the standard immunisation schedule. This applies to opportunistic vaccination of adults and children, individuals or large groups, and may include schools, community groups, nursing homes and other similar facilities as required to control outbreak transmission as directed by a WA Health employed Public Health Physician/Consultant.

This Directive applies to all WA Health employees and other authorised persons operating under Poisons Regulation 37B.

This Directive has no authority to broaden the legal scope or intent of Regulation 37B or the Vaccine Administration Code as published.

The authority provided by this Operational Directive is valid until 31 December 2016.

3. Policy statement

3.1 Legislative authority

The Poisons Regulations 1965 controls the possession and supply of medicines and poisons in Western Australia. All vaccines are Schedule 4 (prescription only) medicines.
They require a valid prescription from an approved prescriber (medical practitioner or nurse practitioner) prior to supply for administration.

Regulation 37B exempts registered nurses from these requirements as part of employment by the Department of Health, Hospital, Local Government, Aboriginal Health Council or Aboriginal Health Service or a correctional facility (prison).

The Regulation applies to vaccines listed in Appendix B to the Regulations. Mumps-containing vaccines are included on this list. Administration of a vaccine under this Regulation is also conditional on adherence to the Vaccine Administration Code published by WA Health. Registered Nurses accessing this authority must have first completed an approved course of training in immunisation.

The Vaccine Administration Code authorises administration of vaccines according to the standard WA Immunisation Schedule published by the WA Health. Immunisation that is not part of the standard schedule may be authorised from time to time through publication of Operational Directives.

3.2 Mumps Epidemiology

Prior to universal vaccination, mumps was primarily a disease of childhood with the peak incidence in the 5–9 years age group. However, since 2000, peak incidence rates have been reported in older adolescents and young adults, especially the 20–34 years age group. Persons born in the late 1960s to mid-1980s are recognised as a group at greater risk of acquiring mumps because some of these individuals missed being vaccinated as a child and have not been exposed to circulating mumps virus previously.1

Numerous outbreaks of mumps have been reported in recent years, including in the Kimberley region of WA, the United States, Canada and several European countries. These outbreaks have been characterised by high incidence in older teenagers and young adults, a high proportion of whom have been vaccinated. Attack rates are usually lowest in persons who have received 2 doses of mumps-containing vaccine, as this provides optimal long-term protection. Providing additional doses of mumps vaccine has been used to help control mumps outbreaks.

3.3 Mumps Vaccines

Mumps vaccination is provided using either measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) or measles-mumps-rubella-varicella (MMRV) vaccines. Combination MMRV vaccines have been shown, in clinical trials, to produce similar rates of seroconversion to all four vaccine components, compared with MMR vaccine.

Clinical trials of MMR vaccine indicate 95% mumps seroconversion after a single dose and up to 100% after a 2nd dose. However, outbreak investigations and post-marketing studies have reported 1-dose vaccine effectiveness to be between 60 and 90%.

---

1 Australian Immunisation Handbook 10th Ed.
Mumps-containing vaccine does not provide protection if given after an individual has been exposed to mumps. However, if the exposure did not result in infection, the vaccination should induce protection against subsequent infection.

3.4 Mumps Vaccination Clinical Considerations

Registered nurses should refer to the Australian Immunisation Handbook for comprehensive information on recommendations relating to immunisation against mumps.

As mumps is only available as a trivalent or quadrivalent vaccine, the contraindications and precautions for measles, rubella and varicella also apply. MMR vaccines are contraindicated in pregnant women. MMRV vaccines are not recommended for use in persons equal to or greater than 14 years of age.

All adverse events observed should continue be notified as per the Code. Notification of adverse events is a mandatory requirement.

Confirmed cases of mumps are a notifiable disease in Western Australia. Notification should be made in the approved manner.

4. Definitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Immunisation Schedule</th>
<th>Document titled WA Immunisation Schedule and published under the authority of the CEO of Health, as current for time to time.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MMR</td>
<td>Measles-Mumps-Rubella vaccine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMRV</td>
<td>Measles-Mumps-Rubella-Varicella vaccine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mumps Epidemic</td>
<td>Declared uncontrolled outbreak and transmission of mumps virus in rural, regional and remote WA in late 2015.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulation 37B</td>
<td>Regulation 37B of the Poisons Legislation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered Nurse</td>
<td>A nurse registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia under Health Practitioner National Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccine Administration Code</td>
<td>Document titled Vaccine Administration Code and published under the Authority of the CEO of Health, as current for time to time.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Roles and responsibilities

Registered nurses administering mumps vaccines under the authority of this Directive are to comply with the Poisons Legislation, Vaccine Administration Code and all other legislative requirements for notification and reporting of communicable diseases and immunisation.

Immunisation against mumps must be part of a coordinated public health response with prior approval of a WA Health-employed public health physician/consultant.
6. Evaluation

Evaluations of the effectiveness of local mumps outbreak control measures under this Operational Directive are to be carried out by public health units and teams.

7. References

Vaccine Administration Code 2015:  

The Australian Immunisation Handbook 10th Ed:  

Mumps Information, Healthy WA:  
http://www.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/J_M/Mumps

8. Relevant legislation

Poisons Regulations 1965:  

9. Related documents

Immunisation provider information and resources:  

Western Australian Immunisation Schedule:  

10. Authority

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title:</th>
<th>Vaccine Administration Code: Mumps Outbreak 2015 - 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact:</td>
<td>Neil Keen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directorate:</td>
<td>Public Health Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Version:</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Last Review:</td>
<td>24 December 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>