

## Immunizations Administered by Pharmacists

All of the following information is derived from TITLE 15, LEGISLATIVE RULE, WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF PHARMACY; SERIES 12, BOARD OF PHARMACY RULES REGARDING IMMUNIZATIONS ADMINISTERED BY PHARMACISTS. ([West Virginia Board of Pharmacy Rules Regarding Immunizations Administered by Pharmacists](#))

- [What Immunizations/Vaccines am I allowed to perform by law?](#)
- [Will my Immunization training be accepted by the West Virginia Board of Pharmacy?](#)
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“[Immunizations](#)” means, for the purpose of this rule, the vaccines specifically listed in this subsection which a pharmacist may administer to any person eighteen years of age or older, including:

- Influenza;
- Pneumonia;
- Hepatitis A;
- Hepatitis B;
- Herpes Zoster;
- Tetanus, tetanus-diphtheria (commonly referred to as “Td”), or tetanus-diphtheria-and-pertussis (commonly referred to as “Tdap”) ; and
- Meningococcal.

### Qualifications:

A pharmacist licensed by the Board may administer immunizations to any person eighteen years of age or older provided the pharmacist has met all of the following requirements:

- Registered with the board to administer immunizations;
- [Successfully completed the American Pharmacists Association's](#) (APhA) immunization training program, or such other immunization training course as may be approved by the Board, which courses must be based on the standards established for immunization training by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the public health service of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The following are currently approved immunization training courses accepted by The West Virginia Board Of Pharmacy:
  - American Pharmacist Association (APhA)
  - University of Findlay School of Pharmacy
  - University of Florida School of Pharmacy
  - University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy
  - North Eastern University School of Pharmacy

- Ohio Pharmacist Association
- University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy
- Maintains current certification in basic life-support training, including basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). We accept the CPR courses approved by the [DHHR, Bureau of Medical Services](#), for Provider Training. The following courses are accepted;
  - [American Heart Association](#),
  - [American Red Cross](#),
  - [American Health & Safety Institute](#),
  - [American CPR](#),
  - [National Safety Council](#), and
  - Emergency Care and Safety Institute (ESCI).
- Upon renewal of an existing Immunization Permit a minimum of two (2) hours annually of continuing education related to immunizations is required. The continuing education must be by a provider approved by the [Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education](#) (A.C.P.E.). (Example: If applying for a one (1) year Immunization Permit, two (2) hours CE will be required. If applying for a two (2) year Immunization Permit, four (4) hours CE will be required. When applying for your immunization permit your current RPh license expiration date will determine if you apply for a one (1) year permit or a two (2) year permit. Proof of continuing education is only due upon renewal of Immunization Permits.
- Initial Immunization Applications will not require the two (2) or four (4) hours of Continuing Education but instead proof of the approved Immunization Training Program.
- It is unprofessional conduct for a pharmacist to administer an immunization, who is not in compliance with this rule.

### **Registration:**

Prior to administering immunizations a pharmacist shall submit an application supplied by the Board for review and approval of the Board, providing that all of the requirements of Section 3.1 have been met. The application must be submitted along with a required fee of \$10.00 (per year being applied). Provided all requirements of Section 3.1 have been met and the required fee is received, the Board shall issue a registration to administer immunizations. Registrations shall expire bi-annually on June 30 of year in which the pharmacist's license to practice pharmacy expires. (Example: If your RPh license will expire the upcoming June 30<sup>th</sup> you will be applying for a one (1) year Immunization Permit which requires a \$10 fee. If your RPh license will expire in the following June 30<sup>th</sup> you will be applying for a two (2) year Immunization Permit which requires a \$20 fee.)

All applications must be received by mail or in person. Payment is due upon receipt of application. If application is received without payment (via fax) the application will be sent back to sender and not be processed. Payment and application must be received together.

The West Virginia Board of Pharmacy only accepts payments via check or money order; therefore, phone payments/credit cards will not be accepted. All checks or money orders should be made payable to The West Virginia Board of Pharmacy.

A pharmacist may not administer an immunization unless currently registered with the Board to do so under this rule. Further, such registration must be posted conspicuously at any location at which the registered pharmacist is doing any administration.

## **Immunizations:**

Immunizations authorized by this rule shall be administered:

In accordance with definitive treatment guidelines for immunizations promulgated by the latest notice from the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), including, but not limited to, CDC's "Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule, by Vaccine and Age Group" and "Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule, by Vaccine and Medical and Other Indications", including the footnotes provided for each schedule.

- May be done in accordance with a proper order from a properly authorized practitioner.
- Administration must be done in accordance with the training required by Section 3.1.b of this Series, including, but not limited to indications, contraindications, route of administration, sanitary environment for administration, specifics regarding administration, and storage requirements for each specific immunization authorized by this rule;
- Administration must include implementation of the CDC's recommended appropriate observation for an adverse reaction of an individual following an immunization.
- Under no circumstances may a pharmacist delegate his or her authority to administer immunizations to any other person, including but not limited to, any pharmacy technician.
- A current Vaccine Information Statement, as provided by CDC, shall be provided to each person receiving an immunization for each immunization administered.

## **Record-keeping and reporting:**

- An immunization questionnaire and consent form shall be completed for each person receiving an immunization. A record of the immunization administration shall be forwarded to the primary care physician or other licensed health care provider as identified by the person receiving the immunization, within not more than 30 days of the date of the administration. In the event that the patient affirmatively indicates in writing that he or she does not have a primary care physician or other health care provider to whom to forward the report, the pharmacist must document such in the immunization record, and provide a record of the immunization administration to the patient.
- In addition, the pharmacist must report the administration of the patient immunization to the West Virginia Statewide Immunization Information (WVSII) database in the format and containing such information as may be required by the WVSII within not more than 30 days of the date of the administration.
- The immunization questionnaire and consent form and record of the immunization administration shall be filed in the pharmacy in a manner that will allow timely retrieval, and shall be kept on file for a time period not less than five (5) years from the date of the immunization. All such records shall be maintained in the pharmacy where the immunization is administered. In the event it is administered off-site, then the records shall be maintained in the pharmacy where the pharmacist who administered the immunization is employed at the time the immunization is given.
- Pharmacists shall report all adverse events to the [Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System \(VAERS\)](#), and promptly provide a copy of all reports to the Board of Pharmacy, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Bureau for Public Health, Office of Epidemiology and Prevention Services, Division of Immunization Services, and the patient's identified primary care physician or other licensed health care provider as identified by the person receiving the

immunization. VAERS is a national vaccine safety surveillance program co-sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

### **Interns and Immunizations:**

#### **Properly Certified Pharmacy Interns May Give Immunizations**

The statute was amended to allow for interns to be permitted to administer them, subject to the rules.

The Board, with the assistance of practicing pharmacists and the three schools of pharmacy in the state, drafted amendments to the rules to incorporate interns, including requirements for their training and credentialing. These were forwarded to the Boards of Medicine and Osteopathic Medicine for their review. The Board of Medicine asked for an amendment that would require the intern be under the “personal supervision” of the supervising immunizing pharmacist, rather than “direct supervision”. This requires the pharmacist to be physically present with the intern when the immunization is actually administered by the intern. The Board of Osteopathic Medicine also reviewed the proposal and asked for a few minor amendments. The rules were finalized and became effective May 17, 2015.

So, pharmacists who hold an immunizing pharmacist permit, and properly trained and certified interns under their personal supervision, can now do immunizations for influenza, pneumococcal hepatitis A, hepatitis B, herpes zoster, tetanus, tetanus-diphtheria, tetanus-diphtheria-and-pertussis, and meningococcal vaccines.

The rules now provide that a licensed pharmacy intern may perform all of the immunizations an immunizing pharmacist can administer so long as the intern has completed all of the same training and current certification required of a pharmacist and the intern is under the personal supervision of an immunizing pharmacist. The term “personal supervision” is defined as follows: “Personal supervision” means the supervising immunizing pharmacist is physically present in the room during the administration of a vaccine.” So, an intern who is properly trained and certified can get all of the paperwork ready and get the vaccine ready under the usual direct supervision, but the supervising immunizing pharmacist must be physically present in the same room and personally supervising the intern when the vaccine is actually administered to the patient.

While immunizing pharmacists get an immunizing pharmacist permit issued by the Board, the rules provide that interns must simply have their intern license, and then provide his or her supervising pharmacist a copy of the documentation that the intern has completed all of the training and current certification, and that the supervising pharmacist shall in turn maintain this documentation in the pharmacy where the pharmacist and intern who administers an immunization is employed at the time any immunization is administered by the intern.