



Nursing Policy/Procedure

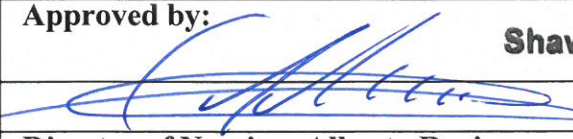
Policy Number:

Section: Nursing Education

Issued:

Subject: Mandatory Inoculist Certification and Re-certification Program

Revised: September 2017

Approved by:  Shawn Grono	Effective Date: <i>25 SEPT 2017</i>
Director of Nursing, Alberta Region	Date:

Policy:

All nurses, regardless of their tenure, who engage in the practice of immunizations as a work requirement must complete the mandatory Inoculist Certificate program and recertify every 3 years.

Policy Rationale:

The Inoculist Certification program is designed to ensure that all community health nurses achieve and maintain the highest standards of competence and safety in relation to their knowledge and skill for the provision of immunization services.

As the immunization program is complex and always evolving with new vaccines and standards, ensuring that all nurses who engage in this practice are current and competent is essential to ensure safe competent practice and service to the public. The implementation of the Inoculist Certification Program is part of the quality improvement process.

Policy Interpretation

Community Health Nurses, including Registered Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, and Licensed Practical Nurses who are providing immunization services to the public, must hold a current Inoculist Provider Certificate. This requirement is in place whether or not the nurse has had previous training/education in immunization.

Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses who are employed and provide immunization services in a dual role, i.e. providing services in the Home and Community Care Program as well as Public Health Program, are required to complete the Inoculist Certification process.

Nurse Practitioners, Registered Nurses, and Licensed Practical Nurses* who are only providing influenza and pneumococcal vaccines (for example, giving annual influenza vaccines to Home Care clients) are exempt from having to complete the Inoculist Certificate as long as the annual *Influenza Immunization Update* provided by the Regional CDC and Immunization Nurse has been attended.



The LPN must be granted authority by the College of Licensed Practical nurses of Alberta (CLPNA) to engage in Specialized Practice. Authorization will be granted to regulated members of the CLPNA that have successfully completed advanced training approved by the Council. The FNIHB Alberta Region Inoculist Certificate is recognized by CLPNA as meeting the educational requirement for the Specialized Practice of Immunization. This authority may be achieved through completion of Part A of the FNIHB Alberta Region Inoculist Certificate or other education as approved by CLPNA.

Nurses can provide **Td/dTap** vaccines ONLY (i.e. Home Care or Primary Care nurses) if they completed Part A of the Inoculist Certificate, viewed the Td/dTap presentation, and completed Part B: Adult Only competency assessment. Primary Care nurses must have the Inoculist Certificate completed prior to going to community.

At the discretion of Zone Nurse Manager and the Regional Nurse Educator, a community health nurse may be exempted from the Inoculist Certification program if the work related duties do not require involvement in vaccination of clients.

Program Components

The Inoculist Certification program consists of two parts. Part A is a self-study, open book exercise and written exam. Nurse must attain 95% to pass. Nurses are advised to refer to the following current resources when completing Part A:

- Canadian Immunization Guide
- NIIHB, Alberta Region Community Health manual
- Canadian Tuberculosis Standards
- FNIHB, Alberta Region Policy and Procedure Manual

Part B of the Inoculist Certificate is a competency assessment in which skills pertaining to immunization must be demonstrated.

Procedure

1. Upon commencement of employment, the Zone Nurse Manager (ZNM) or the nurse in charge will advise the Regional Nursing Education Administrative Assistant of the nurse's eligibility to complete the immunization certificate. The nurse is then provided electronic access to Part A of the Inoculist Certification program.
2. The nurse shall complete Part A of the Inoculist Certification process within three months of commencing employment with FNIHB, Alberta Region. The electronic exam results are forwarded directly to the Regional Nursing Education department.
3. The nurse has 3 months after completing Part A to complete Part B. However, the primary care nurse must complete the Adult Only Inoculist Certification program prior to going to community.
4. Part B documents are then sent to the nurse; the ZNM may be actively involved in organizing the preceptor clinical experience. Part B must be completed by the nurse during immunization clinics under the preceptorship of a nurse who has a current Inoculist Certificate.
5. The completed Part B is to be forwarded to the Education Team.



6. The Inoculist Certificate will be issued once Part A and Part B is successfully completed. The certificate is valid for three years.
7. All copies of the Inoculist Certification are retained in Regional Nursing Education department.

Re-certification

Nurses are required to re-certify every 3 years. Community Health Nurses have a grace period of 4 months after the expiry date to re-certify. It is recommended to begin the recertification process prior to the expiry date. Both Parts A and B of the Inoculist Certificate program must be completed as part of the re-certification process.

Reference

College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta (2016). Standards of Practice for Licensed Practical Nurses on the performance of restricted activities: Standard 6. CLPNA, AB. Retrieved July 19, 2017 from: <http://nurses.ab.ca/content/dam/carna/pdfs/DocumentDrafts/Restricted-Activities-Standards-of-Practice.pdf>

Related Policies

Mandatory Education Policy (National and Regional) for Primary Care Nurses.

