

Vaccines

Vaccination is a safe and effective public health practice for the prevention of infectious diseases. Under the Paramedic Professions Regulation, Advanced Care Paramedics (ACP) and Primary Care Paramedics (PCP) have been granted the authority to administer a vaccine. Standard of Practice 4.1.2 speaks directly to the administration of a vaccine. This Practice Guideline provides further guidance in the administration of a vaccine.

Influenza Vaccines

Each year, the World Health Organization (WHO) selects influenza virus isolates, which form the basis for influenza vaccine production for the following fall and winter flu season. An ACP or PCP is expected to be fully versed in the potential risks and side effects when administering the vaccination for each year's strain of influenza. It is expected that the PCP or ACP will verse themselves on the formulas for each year's strain of flu and seek training through employer, self study, etc.

Vaccination safety

Influenza vaccination is more than performing the psychomotor task of giving an injection. Safe flu immunization requires:

- Knowledge, skill and judgment to assess the appropriateness of administering the flu vaccine to an individual client, including attending appropriate orientation as required.
- Sharing with the client the risks and benefits of receiving and not receiving the vaccine.
- Careful client assessment for anaphylaxis risk such as previous anaphylaxis, severe allergy to any component of the vaccine or to latex.
- Compliance with the recommended dose, route, site and schedule for administering the vaccine.
- Vaccine handling and storage according to the vaccine manufacturers package insert and employer policy, as per Alberta Health's Alberta Vaccine Cold chain (AVCC) Policy.
- Knowledge of the vaccine action, interactions, minor side-effects, and potential adverse events
- Monitoring the client during and following vaccine administration.
- Managing side-effects or adverse effects of the vaccine and reporting adverse events as per the Alberta Health Adverse events following immunizations (AEFI) policy.

Reporting

When reporting, ACPs and PCPs are to act in accordance with Alberta Health guidelines on reporting adverse events with an emphasis on reporting temporally associated events that are serious, unexpected, or unusual as well as those that are expected but occurring more frequently than usually observed.

Approved training

For those wishing to complete the approved training, please see the section on additional training found on the College's website.

Additional Resources

Further information is provided in the Immunization Regulation for Alberta:

- https://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Regs/2018_182.pdf

Disclaimer

All Practice Guidelines are meant to provide further direction to regulated members in the delivery of responsible health care. All regulated members must always also adhere to the profession's Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics.