Immunization Delivery in Pharmacy Settings

As a pharmacist, it is important to keep up-to-date on immunization best practice standards. Here are some resources to help find the answers to your questions. You can also find these live links online at Immunization Delivery in Pharmacy Settings (http://mn.gov/boards/pharmacy/resourcesfaqs/faqs/generalfaqs.jsp).

General Vaccine Information

The Minnesota Board of Pharmacy offers guidance on pharmacy immunization practice in the state in the Immunizations section of their General FAQs (http://mn.gov/boards/pharmacy/currentissues/).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) publishes The Pink Book: Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/index.html). This textbook gives immunization providers the most comprehensive information on vaccine-preventable diseases.

The Minnesota Vaccines for Children Program (MnVFC) (www.health.state.mn.us/vfc) is a federally funded program to ensure affordable vaccines for all children.

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has compiled resources for health care providers serving adolescents and adults to help you make sure patients get the immunizations they need. Vaccines for Teens (www.wevaxteens.com) For Health Care Providers Serving Adults (www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/immunize/hcp/adults)

Pharmacist Immunization Training

Both the American Pharmacists Association and the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy offer Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) accredited courses.

APhA Pharmacy-Based Immunization Delivery (www.pharmacist.com/pharmacy-based-immunization-delivery)

University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy Immunization Delivery for Pharmacists (www.pharmacy.umn.edu/degrees-and-programs/continuing-pharmacy-education/activities/immunization-delivery-pharmacists)

The Got Your Shots? A Providers Guide to Immunizations (www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/immunize/hcp/provguide) in Minnesota provides the most up-to-date information that pharmacists need to make sure patients are properly immunized and vaccine is stored correctly.

The American Pharmacists Association provides pharmacists with the latest immunization news through their Immunizing Pharmacists News (https://echo4.bluehornet.com/form/81511/immunizingpharmacists) emails.

MDH provides Influenza Vaccine Information For Health Professionals (www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/flu/vaccine), which has information on the latest influenza vaccination, testing, and treatment recommendations, as well as updates on disease activity.

The Minnesota Pharmacists Association (www.mpha.org) and the Minnesota Society of Health-System Pharmacists (www.mnshp.org) also provide immunization educational opportunities and resources.

Patient Education and Promotion Materials

MDH has compiled Vaccines for Adults (www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/immunize/adult), information for adult patients about what
vaccines they need, where to find them, and other common vaccine questions.

Pharmacists can play a unique role in identifying and educating individuals with chronic health conditions about the vaccines they need. CDC provides resources at Educating Adults with Chronic Health Conditions: Vaccination Resources (www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/patient-ed/adults/for-patients/health-conditions.html).

**Storage and Handling Vaccine**

A Providers Guide to Immunizations in Minnesota: Managing Vaccine (www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/immunize/hcp/provguide/mangvax.html) offers guidance on how to keep vaccines viable and patients protected.

MDH has developed a two-page illustrated Vaccine Storage Guide (www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/immunize/hcp/vaxhandling.html) providing tips for proper storage and management of vaccines.

CDC also provides guidelines and a comprehensive toolkit on proper Vaccine Storage and Handling (www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/storage/default.htm).

**Administration and Documentation of Vaccine**

MDH provides Immunization Schedules for Health Care Providers (www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/immunize/hcp/schedules.html), charts to show when immunizations should be given, including exceptions and catch-up schedules.

Under Minnesota law, pharmacists can vaccinate populations through obtaining protocols signed by a Minnesota licensed physician prior to vaccine administration. MDH provides templates for writing Vaccine Protocols (www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/immunize/hcp/protocols).

Federal law requires anyone who vaccinates to give patients the appropriate Vaccine Information Statements (www.immunize.org/vis) before vaccine administration.

The California Department of Health’s EZIZ Training (http://eziz.org/eziz-training) website provides free online training on vaccine administration along with other immunization trainings for providers.

The Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) creates sample Screening Questionnaires (www.immunize.org/handouts/screening-vaccines.asp) to be utilized during patient consultations before vaccine administration.

Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) (http://vaers.hhs.gov) is a surveillance program co-sponsored by CDC and FDA, and relies on receiving adverse event reports from health care professionals. All providers, including pharmacists, are encouraged to report any adverse event that occurs after vaccine administration, even if the provider is unsure whether a vaccine caused them.

**Using the Minnesota Immunization Information Connection (MIIC)**

MIIC is a confidential, computerized system that collects immunization records for Minnesota residents across the lifespan. MIIC combines immunizations a patient has received into a single record, even if the shots were given by different health care providers in the state. Submitting immunization information to MIIC also fulfills reporting requirements for pharmacists. Watch a short video at the MIIC and Pharmacies (www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/immunize/registry/pharmacies.html) website to learn more about how pharmacists can use MIIC.

Minnesota Department of Health Immunization Program
PO Box 64975, St. Paul, MN 55164-0975
651-201-5414 or 1-877-676-5414
www.health.state.mn.us/immunize

To obtain this information in a different format, call:
651-201-5414 or 1-877-676-5414