

Directive for the Administration and Provision of all Immunization Services (including the administration of immunizing agents and the management of adverse events following immunization)

Purpose: To outline **standards** for immunizers, and their employers (including private immunization clinic services) regarding directives to administer vaccines through the publicly funded New Brunswick Immunization Program. The policy also establishes which immunizers requires a directive.

Preamble: A directive is a written order from an authorized prescriber¹, for a number of clients, when specific conditions are met. The specifics of the directive will depend on the client population and the nature of the order (i.e., vaccines). Authorized prescribers¹ do not require a directive to provide immunizations.

Providing immunization is within the scope of practice for many health care professionals in New Brunswick (NB) however, some require a directive to administer vaccines. These directives may originate from the Regional Medical Officer of Health (RMOH) or by an authorized prescriber¹.

Providing safe immunization requires that both the authorized prescribers¹ and the immunizers follow the National Guidelines for Immunization Practice in the [Canadian Immunization Guide](#) as well as in the [New-Brunswick Immunization Program Guide](#) (NBIPG).

Policy: The following health care professionals require a signed directive to provide vaccines in NB:

- Registered Nurses
- Licensed Practical Nurses
- Paramedics²
- Pharmacy Technicians²
- All health care students authorized to practice medicine
- Delegated “non-traditional” health care professional during a pandemic

Regional Medical Officers of Health have a mandate to provide the directive for health care professionals **within the Regional Health Authority Public Health setting** to administer vaccines and biologics including management of immediate events following the administration of those products.

Upon request from the administrative authority responsible for the provision of Public Health immunization programs for community health nurses³ **in First Nations communities**, the Regional Medical Officer of Health (RMOH) may provide a directive for the provision of immunization services in that community.

For the **Extra Mural Program (Adult Residential Facilities and home bound patients) or within nursing home settings**, authorized prescribers¹ may provide a directive for the provision of immunization services within those programs.

Health care professionals working outside of the Regional Health Authority setting (i.e., extra mural program or in nursing homes), will provide immunization services under the designated authorized prescriber¹.

All Health Care professionals are guided by professional practice standards and are always accountable for their practice and compliance with relevant standards.

Standards:

1. A directive for immunization services will be provided for Public Health nurses and community health nurses³ following consultation among the parties involved; namely, the Regional Medical Officer of Health; the administrative authority for immunization service delivery in each organization; and the

¹ In NB current authorized prescribers include physicians, nurse practitioners, optometrists, dentists, pharmacists and midwives.

² Paramedics and Pharmacy Technicians have directives already established by their authorized prescriber.

³ The term “community health nurses” refers to those nurses working in First Nations communities

nurses affected by the directive. The nurses may be represented by the immunization coordinator or designate. In this document, refer to its [Appendix A - Directive for the Administration and Provision of all Immunization Services](#) including vaccine administration and the management of adverse events following immunization.

2. A directive for immunization services will be provided for extra mural program nurses and nurses working in nursing homes following consultation among the parties involved; by the designated authorized prescriber¹ as the administrative authority for immunization service delivery in each organization; and the nurses affected by the directive. The nurses may be represented by the immunization coordinator or designate. In this document, refer to its [Appendix A - Directive for the Administration and Provision of all Immunization Services](#) including vaccine administration and the management of adverse events following immunization.
3. Employers will ensure that all immunizers have met conditions outlined in this directive.
4. The directive will be reviewed by all parties and updated each fiscal year.
5. A copy of the directive will be available to staff in all sites where the directive is applied. In this document, refer to its [Appendix A - Directive for the Administration and Provision of all Immunization Services](#).
6. The accountability and responsibility to initiate, implement and maintain a directive for client care is shared by the person administering the vaccine, authorized prescribers¹, and employers.

Appendix A - Directive for the Administration and Provision of all Immunization Services

All immunizers may provide immunization services to those eligible for publicly funded vaccine are subject to the policies, standards and guidelines of the latest edition of the [New Brunswick Immunization Program Guide](#) (NBIPG).

Both the immunizer and the prescriber must follow the standards established in this directive and its policy attached (*Policy 2.5 - Administration and Provision of all Immunization Services*), to administer vaccines through the New Brunswick Immunization Program.

The immunizer signing the directive must have demonstrated they are competent in all essential immunization practices and refer to the NBPIG [Immunization Competency Standards for all Immunization Providers](#). The prescriber signing the directive ensures the immunizer's competencies have been met per the requirements set in [Immunization Competency Standards for all Immunization Providers](#).

There are several vaccines available that may have different compositions annually (example COVID-19 and influenza vaccines). Immunizers may be providing services involving more than one product over time; therefore, it is the immunizer's responsibility to ensure they review and familiarize themselves with the correct vaccine(s) for the individual they are immunizing.

Immunizers must refer to the following documents for the required vaccine information for each practice setting.

Please note: Additional vaccine reference documents exist for providing certain vaccines programs (i.e., Influenza and COVID-19). Vaccine information guides are provided for all Health Care Professionals offering these specific vaccine programs and located on [Communicable Disease Control Resources for Health Care Professionals \(gnb.ca\)](#).

Essential Immunization Practices	Reference
Competencies for Immunization Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NBIPG - Immunization Competency Standards for all Providers• Health Canada-Immunization Competencies for Health Professionals
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NBIPG - Communicating Effectively About Immunization: A Guideline for Immunization Providers in New Brunswick• NBIPG - Consent for Immunization• Canadian Immunization Guide (CIG)- Part 1 - Key Immunization information- Communicating Effectively about Immunization

Vaccine Storage and Handling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NBIPG - Vaccine Storage and Handling • CIG- Part 1 - Key Immunization information- Storage and Handling of Immunizing Agents • NBPIG –Guidance for Vaccine Response Plans in the event of Power Failure
Pre- vaccination assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIG- Part 1 - Key Immunization information- Vaccine Administration Practices
Adverse events following immunization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NBIPG- Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFIs) • NBIPG - Reporting of Adverse Events Following Immunization in New Brunswick • NBPIG – Reporting Adverse Events Following Immunization (Poster) • NBIPG - Anaphylaxis-Management.pdf (gnb.ca) • NBIPG AEFI Reporting Form • CIG -Part 2 – Vaccine Safety
Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NBIPG - Recording, Reporting and Releasing Immunization Information
Populations requiring special consideration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NBIPG - Populations Requiring Special Consideration • CIG- Part 3 - Vaccination of Specific Populations
Eligibility criteria for publicly funded vaccines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NBIPG - Eligibility Criteria for Publicly Funded Vaccines/Biologics
Immunization Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NBIPG - Routine Immunization Schedule • NBIPG - An Assessment Tool to Determine the Validity of Vaccine Doses • CIG: Part 4 - Active Vaccines

Products	<p>VACCINES</p> <p>COVID-19</p> <p>Diphtheria, Tetanus, Acellular Pertussis, Inactivated Polio & Haemophilus Influenza Type b (DTaP-IPV-Hib)</p> <p>Haemophilus Influenzae Type b (Hib)</p> <p>Hepatitis A - pediatric (HA)</p> <p>Hepatitis A - adult (HA)</p> <p>Hepatitis B - pediatric (HB)</p> <p>Hepatitis B - adult (HB)</p> <p>Hepatitis B- dialysis (HB)</p> <p>Hepatitis A and B adult (HAHB)</p> <p>Hepatitis A & B junior (HAHB)</p> <p>Human Papillomavirus (HPV)</p> <p>Inactivated polio (IPV)</p> <p>Influenza (<i>Refer to individual product monographs for annual vaccine composition</i>)</p> <p>Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)</p> <p>Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella (MMRV)</p> <p>Meningococcal conjugate (Men-C-C)</p> <p>Meningococcal conjugate A, C, Y & W-135 (Men-C-ACYW-135)</p> <p>Meningococcal-B (Men-B)</p> <p>Mpox</p> <p>Pneumococcal conjugate 13-valent (Pneu-C-13)</p> <p>Pneumococcal polysaccharide (Pneu-P-23)</p> <p>Rabies (Rab)</p> <p>Rotavirus (RV)</p> <p>Tetanus Toxoid, Diphtheria (Td)</p> <p>Tetanus, Diphtheria, Acellular Pertussis (Tdap)</p> <p>Tetanus, Diphtheria, Acellular Pertussis, Inactivated Polio (Tdap-IPV)</p> <p>Varicella (Var)</p>
Management of Anaphylaxis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NBPIG – Management of Anaphylaxis and Other Reactions Following Immunization in Non-Hospital Settings

Management of Vaccine Errors and Deviations of Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NBPIG - Management of Vaccine Administration Errors or Deviation for all Immunizers
Dosage, Route and Administration Instructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product Monograph for each vaccine
Contraindications and side effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product Monograph for each vaccine

Form - Directive for the Provision of Immunization Services

Directive for the Provision of Immunization Services

The employers of immunizers responsible for providing immunization services must have in place ongoing quality control processes to ensure adherence to the conditions of this directive and to the policies, standards and guidelines of the New Brunswick Immunization Program.

Regional Medical Officer of Health or NB Authorized Prescriber:

(Name) _____

(Signature) _____

(Date) _____

Staff and Employer Acknowledgement of the directive for the Provision of Immunization Services

I have met the conditions outlined in this directive:

(Employee's name) _____

(Signature) _____

(Date) _____

Employer:

(Employer's name) _____

(Signature) _____

(Date) _____

Name of organization: _____