

Immunization

Immunizations contribute significantly to the health and well being of the citizens of Saskatchewan. Immunizations are an additional Licensed Practical Nurse competency. By following the guidelines set out in this practice guideline, LPNs can play an important role in immunization programs.

It is within the scope of practice of the LPN with additional education in immunizations to administer immunizations to clients over the age of five. Infants, toddlers and preschoolers must be referred to a Public Health Agency. The Saskatchewan Association of Licensed Practical Nurses strongly recommends the adherence to Public Health Guidelines that all clients under the age of 18 be referred to a Public Health Agency for immunizations.

Sections 20 and 21 of the SALPN Regulatory Bylaws provide as follows:

20. All members shall ensure that they work within their educational preparation, level of competence and scope of practice and comply with the standards of practice set out in the *Standards of Practice for Licensed Practical Nurses* approved and adopted by Canadian regulatory agencies as of April 1, 2013.

21. All members shall conduct themselves in an honorable and ethical manner, upholding the values of truth, honesty, and trustworthiness, and shall observe the standards of conduct set out in the *Code of Ethics for Licensed Practical Nurses in Canada* approved and adopted by Canadian Regulatory Agencies as of April 1, 2013.

Licensed Practical Nurses who administer immunizations must first participate in education that contains:

- Theory of Immunizations
- The risks and benefits of receiving the vaccination
- Indications and Contraindications of the vaccine
- Procedures to manage anaphylaxis
- Informed consent procedure
- Proper notification of adverse events
- Documentation procedures
- Storage and Transportation of vaccinations

LPNs administering vaccinations must:

- ensure that physician orders, appropriate policies and procedures and informed consents are in place
- assess and screen individuals who may be at risk for reaction to immunization. At risk individuals should not be immunized in a facility/general immunization clinic but should be referred to a supporting agency such as public health.
- ensure that they have received appropriate education as outlined in this document.

Licensed Practical Nurses must understand their professional responsibility regarding immunizations as an additional competency. LPNs who are asked to administer immunizations to individuals or situations not addressed in these guidelines should contact the SALPN Practice Consultant for direction.

References

The Licensed Practical Nurses Act, 2000, of the Statutes of Saskatchewan Queens Printer, 2000

Saskatchewan Immunization Manual, Saskatchewan Health, 2003

Practice Directive, Allergy Testing, Administering Desensitizing Medications and Immunizations, College of Practical Nurses of British Columbia, 2007

Practice Statement 7, Specialized Practice, College of Practical Nurses of Alberta, 2004