

Immunizations

Can I administer to family and friends?

No, while immunizations contribute significantly to the health and well being of the citizens of Saskatchewan, LPNs must ensure that adequate references, resources and practice supports are readily available prior to the administration of an immunization. LPNs are expected to use professional judgment as they prepare to immunize a client. LPNs meet their standards of practice and code of ethics by declining to perform immunizations when safe and ethical client care is not supported (for example: providing immunizations to family or friends outside of the process as described within this practice guideline).

Immunizations are an additional competency for Licensed Practical Nurses. This means the Licensed Practical Nurse must obtain additional immunization education (post-graduate or employer based) beyond the basic LPN program.

Licensed Practical Nurses provide immunizations in a variety of settings including hospitals, long term care centers, community agencies, clinics and clients' homes. By following the guidelines set out in this practice guideline, LPNs can play an important role in immunization programs.

Determining Appropriate Practice Context

LPNs are expected to consider the immunization within the client's broader health care needs and ongoing health challenges. They should recognize when the presence of other health issues or client circumstances (for example: clients who have a history of immunization reactions or clients living in areas where access to emergency health services is more difficult), increases the risk for a negative health outcome. The more risk associated with the immunization, the more likely the LPN should consult, collaborate, or refer the client to an appropriate care provider before administering the medication.

LPNs administering vaccinations are responsible to:

- Demonstrate knowledge and ability to provide immunizations in accordance with professional legislation, regulation, standards and guidelines.
- Ensure that physician orders, appropriate employer/workplace policies and procedures and informed consents are in place.
- Assess the health status of clients before, during, and after the administration of immunizations and predict and manage any adverse effects. 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 they have received appropriate education as outlined in this document and perform ongoing assessment of their own continuing learning needs and competence.

If you have any questions related to the administration of immunizations, please feel free to contact Helen Bourget at practice@salpn.com or call (306) 525- 8077.