



AN RIALTÓIR CÓGAISÍOCHTA
THE PHARMACY REGULATOR

Programme Specification for The Administration of Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccination Training Course

Version 1.0

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Part One

Generic Interim Accreditation Standards

[The Generic Interim Accreditation Standards for Formal Programmes of Learning for Pharmacy in Ireland¹](#) apply to educational programmes for the Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine Training Course. These generic standards should be referred to when accrediting the associated education and training programme(s).

Part Two

Indicative Desired Programme Content and Deliverables

The clinical aspects addressed in this specification are intended to refresh and build on the existing knowledge-base and expertise of pharmacists. Specifically the aim of the training is to enable pharmacists to, competently and safely:

- Respond to, and prepare for, a request for pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccination in the pharmacy setting
- Perform relevant assessment of patients in order to administer the correct medicine
- Administer pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine to adults

It is recommended that the learning objectives be achieved through an on-line learning format. Pharmacists must meet the relevant training requirements as specified by the PSI Council. The following indicative learning objectives are a general guide for training providers to an appropriate scope of the curriculum content for this programme.

The Learning Objectives have been broadly divided into the following 2 key areas:

Key Area 1: Principles of Pneumococcal Infection and Vaccination

The following is a general guide for course providers on the learning objectives that participants would be expected to attain on successful completion of a module in this area:

- Discuss the aetiology and transmission of pneumococcal disease
- Explain the signs and symptoms of pneumococcal infection, and resultant complications
- Identify high risk groups and those that should receive vaccination
- Describe the epidemiology and disease burden of pneumococcal infection

¹ Revised version approved by the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland on 26 June 2012.

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- Explain the relevant vaccine details for the polysaccharide and conjugate vaccines available for comparison
- Describe pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccination including its impact and programme objectives according to national policy, guidelines and agencies
- Explain the mechanism of action, contraindications, cautions, side effects and routes of administration of the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccines available as provided for in SI 449 of 2015
- Explain the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine dose, including schedules dependant on age and conditions
- Detail the procedure to assess patients for suitable pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccines, including assessing the risks of inappropriate revaccination

Key Area 2: Administration of Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine

The following is a general guide for course providers on the learning objectives that participants would be expected to attain on successful completion of a module in this area:

Pre-vaccination

- Encourage patient engagement with the vaccination service and uptake in at risk groups
- Outline procedures for vaccine selection and checking
- Explain the storage and handling of pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccines
- Identify the key principles in the provision of patient education on pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccination
- State the methods employed to ascertain critical patient information, including communication with other healthcare professionals regarding the patient's pneumococcal immunisation history (where necessary)
- Assess the patient for suitability (inclusion/exclusion criteria, postponement and suitability of administration with other vaccinations)
- Outline the correct schedule for pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccination

Administration

- Compare and contrast the range of pneumococcal vaccines available on the Irish market and clearly detail what vaccines pharmacists are authorised to administer in line with SI 449 of 2015
- Explain how the appropriate dose and product of pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine is selected
- Identify the correct injection site

Post-vaccination

- Outline the relevant procedures for post- vaccination monitoring of the patient to include appropriate observation times
- Describe the system in place to record/document the administration of pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine
- Specify the requirement to notify other health providers (including the patient's usual prescriber) and agencies with appropriate details as required (including information on adverse drug reactions)
- Briefly explain the steps to be explained to the patient following pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccination including; follow up on the patient if/when additional dosing is required, expected side effects and adverse reactions and how to manage these.
- Reflect on the delivery of the service and obtain feedback to ensure continuous quality improvement

References

- Health Service Executive
<http://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/OtherVaccines/pneumo/PneumoVacc.html>
- Health Protection Surveillance Centre website <http://www.hpsc.ie/hpsc/A-Z/VaccinePreventable/PneumococcalDisease/>
- Royal College of Physicians of Ireland [Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland, 2013](#) and subsequent updates (Chapter 16 Pneumococcal Infection)
<http://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/guidelines/immunisationguidelines.html>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine Preventable Diseases "The Pink Book-13th edition. 2015 available at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/index.html>
- Department of Health UK (now updated by Public Health England). Immunisation against infectious diseases "The Green Book"2006 and subsequent updates available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book>
- Health Protection Scotland Immunisation and Vaccine Preventable Diseases Guidelines
<http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/immvax/guidelines.aspx>
- Immunisation Scotland website <http://www.immunisationscotland.org.uk/index.aspx>
- New Zealand Ministry of Health Immunisation Handbook 2014
<http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/immunisation-handbook-2014>

(All websites accessed 10.1.16)

Acknowledgements

The following regulators and professional bodies have been consulted:

- Royal Pharmaceutical Society
- General Pharmaceutical Council
- Alberta College of Pharmacists
- Alberta Pharmacists' Association
- Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand
- Pharmacy Council of New Zealand
- American Pharmacists' Association
- College of Pharmacists of British Columbia
- Canadian Council for Continuing Education in Pharmacy
- Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education
- Australian Pharmacy Council
- Pharmaceutical Society of Australia
- Pharmacy Board of Australia
- Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland
- National Association of Pharmacy Boards
- National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities
- Public Health England