

## Vermont Pharmacist Prescribing Protocol – Influenza Vaccinations

### **Background**

A pharmacist may prescribe, order, or administer influenza vaccines in a manner consistent with a valid State protocol approved by the Commissioner of Health, after consultation with the Director of Professional Regulation and the Board of Pharmacy (BOP). 26 V.S.A. § 2023(b)(2)(A)(i).

Pharmacists who independently prescribe influenza vaccines must follow this protocol. When prescribing per this protocol, the pharmacist is the prescriber-of-record.

### **Definitions**

“Influenza vaccine” means a vaccine for the prevention and control of seasonal influenza, approved by the US Food and Drug Administration’s Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, and listed in the Centers for Disease Control’s Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations, for the current influenza season.

“Recipient” means the person, 18 years of age and older, to whom an influenza vaccine is being supplied.

### **General considerations**

Prescribing an influenza vaccine under this protocol requires the pharmacist to:

1. Have training and education in that area sufficient to perform the duties involved
2. Comply with immunization registry and adverse reaction reporting requirements described in 18 V.S.A. § 1129 and 18 V.S.A. § 1132
3. Document prescribing and administration of the vaccine
4. Keep a written copy of the protocol at each location from where prescriptions are issued for, or administration of, an influenza vaccine occurs
5. Provide a copy of the protocol available upon the request of an inspector.

### **Procedures**

When an individual requests an influenza vaccine, or when a pharmacist in his or her professional judgement offers to prescribe an influenza vaccine to an individual, the pharmacist shall:

1. Screen for contraindications to receiving an influenza vaccination, as described in the current season’s ACIP recommendations (if contraindication exists, no influenza vaccine should be prescribed or administered).
2. Provide the recipient with the most updated Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) for the vaccine administered

### **Authorized Drugs**


Prescribing and dispensing done pursuant to this protocol is limited to FDA-approved influenza vaccines.

### **Prescribing Records**

The pharmacist must generate a written or electronic prescription for any influenza vaccine administered pursuant to protocol-based prescribing. The prescription must include all the information required by Administrative Rule 10.1. The prescription must be processed in the same manner that any other prescription is processed, pursuant to the applicable statutes and rules for the dispensing of prescription drugs. The prescription shall be kept on file and maintained for a minimum of three years, as required by the rules of the Vermont BOP. Pharmacists are reminded to adhere to record-keeping requirements for prescriptions paid for by Medicare and Medicaid, which may differ from those required by BOP.

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APPROVED:



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Commissioner, Vermont Department of Health

Date: 6/21/21



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Director, Office of Professional Regulation

Date: 6/21/2021