

## TITLE

**PHARMACIST ADMINISTRATION OF INTRAMUSCULAR OR SUBCUTANEOUS MEDICATIONS**DOCUMENT #  
HCS-68INITIAL APPROVAL DATE  
June 19, 2014APPROVAL LEVEL  
Alberta Health Services Executive CommitteeINITIAL EFFECTIVE DATE  
June 25, 2014SPONSOR  
Vice President Clinical SupportsREVISION EFFECTIVE DATE  
N/ACATEGORY  
Health Care and ServicesNEXT REVIEW  
June 25, 2017

If you have any questions or comments regarding the information in this policy, please contact the Policy and Forms Department at [policy@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:policy@albertahealthservices.ca). The Policy and Forms website is the official source of current approved policies, procedures and directives.

**PURPOSE**

- To ensure consistency within Alberta Health Services Pharmacy Services for pharmacists when administering intramuscular or subcutaneous medications and/or agents.

**POLICY STATEMENT**

- Alberta Health Services is committed to supporting and providing an environment in which pharmacists can practice to their full scope as defined in the *Health Professions Act* (Alberta).

**APPLICABILITY**

Compliance with this policy is required by all Alberta Health Services employees, members of the medical and midwifery staffs, students, volunteers, and other persons acting on behalf of Alberta Health Services (including contracted service providers as necessary). This policy does not limit any legal rights to which you may otherwise be entitled.

**POLICY ELEMENTS****1. Authority**

- 1.1 Pharmacists who have attained authorization to administer drugs by injection in accordance with the *Alberta College of Pharmacists Regulations and Bylaws* may administer medications and vaccines via subcutaneous or intramuscular injection in accordance with all Alberta Health Services medication administration policies, procedures, and guidelines.
- 1.2 Pharmacists shall administer drugs by injection according to standards as set out in the *Alberta College of Pharmacists Standards of Practice for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians*.

## 2. Support for Pharmacist Medication Administration

- 2.1 Pharmacy Services shall be supportive of pharmacists in their efforts to obtain authorization to administer drugs by injection from the Alberta College of Pharmacists.
- 2.2 Pharmacists shall notify their manager and their assigned Clinical Practice Leader when any changes occur to their authorization to administer drugs by injection status (i.e., approval or termination of authorization to administer drugs by injection).
- 2.3 Prior to initiating administration privileges for pharmacists authorized to administer drugs by injection, the zone or site Pharmacy Services manager shall ensure that proper notification and communication of the pharmacist's administration privileges occurs between Pharmacy Services and the appropriate clinical programs.

## 3. Collaboration

- 3.1 In a team environment, pharmacists administering drugs by injection will collaborate with the **most responsible health practitioner** or designate and other members of the health care team.
- 3.2 The most responsible health practitioner retains overall responsibility for patient care.
- 3.3 Pharmacists shall establish a relationship with the patient, commensurate with the type of service provided.

## 4. Medication Administration by Injection

- 4.1 Pharmacists are required to have read and adhere to all ancillary policies pertaining to medication or vaccine administration by injection.
  - a) Where Public Health and/or Workplace Health and Safety requires the completion of a training program for a specific vaccine, pharmacists shall comply and complete all training prior to administering said vaccine.
- 4.2 Pharmacists shall administer medications or vaccines by injection only when they have completed a patient assessment and are sufficiently aware of the overall therapeutic plan for the patient appropriate to the medication or vaccine being administered.
- 4.3 Pharmacists administering medications and/or vaccines by injection shall collaborate with other members of the health care team to ensure clarity and understanding that the medication(s)/vaccine(s) have been administered by the pharmacist.
- 4.4 Pharmacists shall establish a relationship with the patient, commensurate with the type of medication/vaccine administration required.

- 4.5 Where a pharmacist has administered a medication or vaccine by injection, the pharmacist shall ensure that the patient's **health record** contains direction for:
- a) patient follow-up, including assessment(s) and vital sign measurement(s) following the administration of the medication/vaccine; and
  - b) a clearly articulated mechanism for notification of the appropriate health care provider (pharmacist or **most responsible health practitioner**) should there be an issue arising from the administration of the medication or vaccine.
- 4.6 Pharmacists shall ensure that all plans for patient follow-up and notification have been communicated to the members of the health care team prior to leaving the care area.

## 5. Documentation

- 5.1 Where a pharmacist has administered a medication or vaccine, the pharmacist shall ensure documentation in the patient's health record of the medication/vaccine administered, including the:
- a) name;
  - b) dosage;
  - c) route;
  - d) site (as applicable);
  - e) lot number; and
  - f) notification to Public Health and/or Workplace Health and Safety to update the patient's immunization status, as applicable.

## DEFINITIONS

**Health record** means the Alberta Health Services legal record of the patient's diagnostic, treatment and care information.

**Most responsible health practitioner** means the health practitioner who has responsibility and accountability for the specific treatment/procedure(s) provided to a patient and who is authorized by Alberta Health Services to perform the duties required to fulfill the delivery of such a treatment/procedure(s) within the scope of his/her practice.

**Health care professional** means an individual who is a member of a regulated health discipline, as defined by the *Health Disciplines Act* or the *Health Professions Act*, and who practises within scope or role.

TITLE	EFFECTIVE DATE	DOCUMENT #	POLICY - LEVEL 1 PAGE
PHARMACIST ADMINISTRATION OF INTRAMUSCULAR OR SUBCUTANEOUS MEDICATIONS	June 25, 2014	HCS-68	4 of 4

## REFERENCES

- Alberta Health Services *Medical Staff Bylaws and Medical Staff Rules*
- *Government Organization Act (Alberta)*
- *Health Professions Act (Alberta)*, Pharmacists Profession Regulation
- *Standards of Practice for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians* (Alberta College of Pharmacists)

## REVISIONS

N/A