

Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996

Drug Therapy Protocol
Immunisation Program - Registered Nurses

August 2007



Queensland Government
Queensland **Health**

Environmental Health Unit
Floor 10
Queensland Health Building
147-163 Charlotte Street
GPO Box 48
Brisbane Q 4001
Telephone (07) 3234 0938
Facsimile (07) 3234 1480

Drug Therapy Protocol Immunisation Program - Registered Nurses

I, **Uschi Schreiber**, Chief Executive of Queensland Health, under the provisions of Section 175(3) of the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996*, approve the 'Drug Therapy Protocol - Immunisation Program', in which an endorsed registered nurse practising in an approved immunisation program may, as part of the person's nursing duties, administer the restricted drugs listed in Appendix 1 under the conditions contained in this protocol.

Conditions of the Drug Therapy Protocol

1. Authority to Practise

- 1.1. A registered nurse endorsed by the Queensland Nursing Council to practise in accordance with the provisions of this Drug Therapy Protocol (DTP).

2. Requirement for a Health Management Protocol

- 2.1 The employer must have a current Health Management Protocol (HMP) that supports and details the clinical use, being the administration of drugs listed in Appendix 1 of this DTP.
- 2.2 A registered nurse endorsed to practise by the Queensland Nursing Council in accordance with the provisions of this DTP may only administer those drugs listed in Appendix 1 for which a Health Management Protocol (HMP) has been developed and approved.

3. Development of a Health Management Protocol

- 3.1 The HMP must be developed or adopted by an interdisciplinary health team appointed by the employer under whose jurisdiction the HMP will be implemented.
- 3.2 As a minimum, the team must consist of a medical practitioner, registered nurse and pharmacist, and may include other identified professional personnel as considered appropriate by the employing authority.

4. Content of a Health Management Protocol

The HMP must be developed in accordance with the current edition of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Australian Immunisation Handbook and must clearly identify:

- 4.1 The procedures for clinical assessment, management, and follow-up of patients
- 4.2 The procedures for obtaining valid consent
- 4.3 The name, form and strength of the drug and the condition/situation for which it is intended
- 4.4 The recommended dose of the drug
- 4.5 The route of administration of the drug
- 4.6 The procedures for recording vaccinations, documenting and notifying adverse reactions to vaccinations
- 4.7 The type of equipment and management procedures required for management of an emergency associated with the use of the drug.

5. Endorsement and Renewal of a Health Management Protocol

- 5.1 The HMP must be endorsed and dated by the District Health Service Manager or Chief Executive Officer of a non-Queensland Health organisation.
- 5.2 The HMP shall be effective for a maximum of two (2) years from the date of endorsement by the employer.
- 5.3 Following a period of two years or sooner if considered necessary, the HMP must be reviewed by the interdisciplinary team (see Section 3) and endorsed again by the District

Health Service Manager or Chief Executive Officer of a non-Queensland Health organisation.

6. Responsibilities of Registered Nurses with DTP Endorsement

- 6.1 The actions of the registered nurse who is endorsed by the Queensland Nursing Council to practise in accordance with the provisions of this DTP in regard to the administration of drugs, must, at all times, be in accordance with the HMP¹.
- 6.2 The following literature must be in the possession of a Registered Nurse who is practising under this DTP:
 - 6.2.1 A copy of this DTP; and
 - 6.2.2 Health Management Protocols relevant to this DTP; and
 - 6.2.3 A current copy or access to the Australian Prescription Product Guide and/or a current MIMS Annual and Australian Medicines Handbook
 - 6.2.4 A copy of the Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996; and
 - 6.2.5 A current edition of the NHMRC Australian Immunisation Handbook
- 6.3 A registered nurse who is endorsed to practise in accordance with the provisions of this DTP must be aware that practising within the DTP does not relieve that person of their legal responsibility or accountability for that person's actions and may not provide immunity in case of negligence.
- 6.4 Prior to the administration of a drug, the registered nurse who is endorsed to practise in accordance with the provisions of this DTP must familiarise himself/herself with the contra-indication(s) and known side effects of that drug, and advise the patient accordingly.
- 6.5 When Consumer Product Information is available for a particular drug, a registered nurse who is endorsed to practise in accordance with the provisions of this DTP should provide this information to each person when administering medication.

7 List of Drugs

- 7.1 The restricted drugs and scheduled poisons approved for use under this protocol are those determined by the Senior Director Population Health Branch and listed in Appendix 1.

Signed at Brisbane on this 19th day of September 2007.

Uschi Schreiber
Director-General
Queensland Health

¹ Unless, if in the opinion of the nurse, such actions would be of detriment to the client. In such instances, a doctor must be consulted.