



Nevada State Board of Pharmacy
985 Damonte Ranch Suite 206, Reno, NV 89521
(775) 850-1440 (800)-364-2081 Fax (775) 850-1444

Nevada State Board of Pharmacy

Immunization Report

April 1st, 2023 – March 31st, 2024



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Introduction:

A copy of this report is available from the Board of Pharmacy upon request.

This report, mandated by Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 639.065 will review the numbers of immunizations which were administered by pharmacists during the previous year, any problems or complaints reported to the Board concerning immunizations administered by pharmacists, and any other information that the Board determines may be useful in determining whether pharmacists should continue to administer immunizations in Nevada.

Regulations:

The following are the regulations related to immunizations:

IMMUNIZATION BY PHARMACISTS, INTERN PHARMACISTS AND PHARMACEUTICAL TECHNICIANS

NAC 639.297 “Immunization” defined. ([NRS 639.070](#)) As used in [NAC 639.297](#) to [639.2978](#), inclusive, unless the context otherwise requires, “immunization” means the act of inducing antibody formation through the introduction of a drug into the human body.

(Added to NAC by Bd. of Pharmacy by R009-01, eff. 11-1-2001)

NAC 639.2971 Written protocol by physician authorizing administration; contents of and deviation from written protocol; restrictions to written protocol. ([NRS 454.213](#), [639.070](#), [639.137](#), [639.1371](#))

1. A physician may establish a written protocol authorizing pharmacists to administer immunizations by an intranasal, intramuscular or subcutaneous injection. Except as otherwise limited by the physician pursuant to subsection 5, any pharmacist who is trained and certified in accordance with [NAC 639.2973](#) may subscribe to the written protocol and administer immunizations in compliance with the protocol. Such a protocol must contain:

- (a) The name of the physician who is authorizing the administration of immunizations by a pharmacist;
- (b) The immunizations that may be administered by a pharmacist;
- (c) Detailed policies and procedures that a pharmacist must follow while administering immunizations, including, without limitation, procedures to follow in the case of adverse reactions or emergencies following administration;



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(d) A procedure for the review of the protocol and its operation by the physician at least once annually, and the making and keeping of a record of the review;

(e) When appropriate, specific instructions related to the age of the patient;

(f) Except as otherwise provided in subsections 2 and 3, a restriction that a pharmacist may not delegate his or her authority to administer an immunization;

(g) A restriction that a pharmacist may not administer an immunization except at an authorized location, which location may not be the home of the patient, unless the patient resides in a licensed facility for long-term care or in a hospital;

(h) A requirement that the immunizations will be administered according to all applicable federal, state and local laws; and

(i) The signature of the physician authorizing the administration of the immunizations and the time period for which the written protocol is effective.

2. An intern pharmacist may administer immunizations by an intranasal, intramuscular or subcutaneous injection under the direct and immediate supervision of a pharmacist who has subscribed to a written protocol established by a physician.

3. A pharmaceutical technician may administer immunizations by an intranasal, intramuscular or subcutaneous injection under the direct and immediate supervision of a pharmacist who has subscribed to a written protocol established by a physician if the pharmacist has determined, in his or her professional judgment, that the patient should be immunized. A record of each immunization administered by the pharmaceutical technician must be maintained in the manner prescribed by [NAC 639.2977](#).

4. If a physician orders a deviation from the written protocol for the benefit of a specific patient, the physician shall note the deviations from the written protocol in the record of the patient.

5. A physician may include restrictions to a written protocol established by the physician pursuant to subsection 1 by limiting the protocol to any of the following:

(a) A specific pharmacist or pharmacists;

(b) A specific location or locations;

(c) The administration of a specific immunization or immunizations; or

(d) Other limitations as the physician determines necessary.

(Added to NAC by Bd. of Pharmacy by R009-01, eff. 11-1-2001; A by R142-03, 4-8-2004; R180-05, 12-29-2005; R115-08, 9-18-2008; R142-20, 9-21-2020)

NAC 639.2972 Duties of authorizing physician. ([NRS 454.213](#), [639.070](#), [639.137](#), [639.1371](#)) A physician who has authorized pharmacists to administer immunizations by establishing a written protocol shall supervise the implementation of the protocol by each pharmacist who has subscribed to the protocol, and by each intern pharmacist and pharmaceutical technician acting under the direct and immediate supervision of the pharmacist, by:

1. Being readily accessible to the pharmacist, intern pharmacist or pharmaceutical technician or the patient when the pharmacist is authorized to administer the immunizations for consultation, assistance and direction; and

2. If required by the written protocol, reviewing a periodic status report from a pharmacist, intern pharmacist or pharmaceutical technician concerning any problems, complications or emergencies encountered while administering immunizations.



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NAC 639.2973 Training and certification to administer immunizations. ([NRS 454.213](#), [639.070](#), [639.137](#), [639.1371](#))

1. Before a pharmacist may administer an immunization pursuant to a written protocol or before an intern pharmacist acting under the direct and immediate supervision of a pharmacist may administer such immunizations, the pharmacist or intern pharmacist must be trained and certified to administer immunizations by completing a course approved by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education or its successor organization that includes:

(a) Certification in life-saving techniques pursuant to the American Heart Association's Basic Cardiac Life Support for Health Care Providers or its equivalent;

(b) Education and practical training, including, without limitation, written study materials regarding techniques for administering immunizations;

(c) Evaluation of the knowledge and technique of the pharmacist or intern pharmacist in administering immunizations;

(d) Instruction consistent with the current training guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

(e) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, a minimum of 20 hours of instruction and practical training concerning:

(1) The standards for pediatric, adolescent and adult immunization practices recommended and approved by the United States Public Health Service Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices;

(2) Basic immunology, and vaccine and immunization protection;

(3) Diseases that are preventable through vaccination and immunization;

(4) Recommended immunization schedules;

(5) Vaccine and immunization storage and management;

(6) Informed consent;

(7) Physiology and techniques for administration of immunizations;

(8) Preimmunization and postimmunization assessment and counseling;

(9) Immunization reporting and records management; and

(10) Identification, response, documentation and reporting of adverse events.

2. In lieu of complying with the requirements of paragraph (e) of subsection 1, a pharmacist or an intern pharmacist who administers immunizations consisting exclusively of live attenuated influenza vaccine through the nasal passages of a person may complete a program of less than 20 hours of instruction which is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education or its successor organization and includes instruction relating to:

(a) The epidemiology of influenza;

(b) The pathophysiology, clinical presentation, diagnosis, prevention and treatment of influenza;

(c) The administration, storage and handling of influenza vaccines; and

(d) The counseling of patients who will be immunized with the vaccine.

3. Before a pharmaceutical technician acting under the direct and immediate supervision of a pharmacist may administer an immunization pursuant to a written protocol, the pharmaceutical technician



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must complete at least 1 hour of training relating to vaccines, immunization and the administration of immunizations provided by:

- (a) Immunize Nevada or its successor organization;
- (b) An entity approved by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education or its successor organization;
- (c) The owner or managing pharmacist of the pharmacy at which the pharmaceutical technician is employed; or
- (d) Another entity approved by the Board.

(Added to NAC by Bd. of Pharmacy by R009-01, eff. 11-1-2001; A by R187-03, 4-8-2004; R180-05, 12-29-2005; R115-08, 9-18-2008; R142-20, 9-21-2020)

NAC 639.2974 Certification in basic cardiac life support; continuing education. ([NRS 454.213](#), [639.070](#), [639.137](#), [639.1371](#))

1. A pharmacist who administers immunizations or an intern pharmacist acting under the direct and immediate supervision of a pharmacist who administers immunizations shall:

- (a) Maintain certification in basic cardiac life support from the American Heart Association or its successor organization; and
- (b) On or before October 31 of each year, complete:
 - (1) At least 2 hours of continuing education in a course or courses that address the life cycle of diseases, drugs and administration of immunizations; or
 - (2) A course provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding epidemiology and prevention of diseases which are preventable through immunization.

2. On or before October 31 of each year, a pharmaceutical technician acting under the direct and immediate supervision of a pharmacist who administers immunizations shall complete at least 1 hour of continuing education relating to vaccines, immunization and the administration of immunizations provided by an entity listed in subsection 3 of [NAC 639.2973](#).

(Added to NAC by Bd. of Pharmacy by R009-01, eff. 11-1-2001; A by R180-05, 12-29-2005; R142-20, 9-21-2020)

NAC 639.2975 Legal possession and control of drugs administered as immunizations; drugs to counteract adverse reactions. ([NRS 454.213](#), [639.070](#), [639.137](#), [639.1371](#))

1. The drugs administered as immunizations by a pharmacist, or an intern pharmacist or pharmaceutical technician acting under the direct and immediate supervision of a pharmacist, must be in the legal possession of:

- (a) The pharmacy that employs the pharmacist, intern pharmacist or pharmaceutical technician who will be administering the immunizations, which pharmacy is responsible for the drugs and the maintenance of records of administration of the immunizations; or
- (b) The physician who has established a written protocol for the administration of the immunizations, which physician is responsible for the drugs and the maintenance of records of administration of the immunizations.

2. The drugs used for immunizations must be transported and stored at the proper temperatures indicated for the drugs by the manufacturer.



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3. While engaged in the administration of immunizations, a pharmacist, or an intern pharmacist or pharmaceutical technician acting under the direct and immediate supervision of a pharmacist, may have in his or her custody and control the drugs for immunization that are identified in the written protocol and any other dangerous drugs listed in the written protocol to treat an adverse reaction.

4. If a pharmacist, or an intern pharmacist or pharmaceutical technician acting under the direct and immediate supervision of a pharmacist, administers immunizations at a location other than a pharmacy, the pharmacist, intern pharmacist or pharmaceutical technician must return all unused drugs to the pharmacy or physician responsible for the drugs.

(Added to NAC by Bd. of Pharmacy by R009-01, eff. 11-1-2001; A by R180-05, 12-29-2005; R115-08, 9-18-2008; R142-20, 9-21-2020)

NAC 639.2976 Reporting of certain information concerning immunizations. ([NRS 454.213](#), [639.070](#), [639.137](#), [639.1371](#)) A pharmacist who administers immunizations or directly and immediately supervises a pharmaceutical technician who administers immunizations, or an intern pharmacist acting under the direct and immediate supervision of a pharmacist who administers immunizations, shall report the information required for inclusion in the Immunization Information System established by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to [NRS 439.265](#) and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

(Added to NAC by Bd. of Pharmacy by R009-01, eff. 11-1-2001; A by R180-05, 12-29-2005; R115-08, 9-18-2008; R142-20, 9-21-2020)

NAC 639.2977 Maintenance of records. ([NRS 454.213](#), [639.070](#), [639.137](#), [639.1371](#))

1. Each record required to be made pursuant to [NAC 639.297](#) to [639.2978](#), inclusive, must be kept for at least 2 years by the pharmacist, intern pharmacist or pharmaceutical technician administering the immunization and the pharmacy or physician who possessed the drugs administered. Such records must be available for inspection and copying by the Board or its representative, or any other authorized federal, state or local law enforcement or regulatory agency.

2. Records required pursuant to this section may be maintained in an alternative data retention system, including, without limitation, a computer data processing system or direct imaging system, if:

(a) The records maintained in the alternative system contain all the information required for a written record; and

(b) The data processing system is capable of producing a printed copy of the record upon the request of the Board, its representative or any other authorized federal, state or local law enforcement or regulatory agency.

(Added to NAC by Bd. of Pharmacy by R009-01, eff. 11-1-2001; A by R180-05, 12-29-2005; R142-20, 9-21-2020)

NAC 639.2978 Confidentiality of records. ([NRS 454.213](#), [639.070](#), [639.137](#), [639.1371](#))

1. A pharmacist, or an intern pharmacist or pharmaceutical technician acting under the direct and immediate supervision of a pharmacist, shall provide adequate security to prevent unauthorized access to confidential records of immunizations. If confidential health information is not transmitted directly between a pharmacy and a physician, but is transmitted through a data communication device, the confidential health



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information must not be viewed or used by the operator of the data communication device unless the operator is specifically authorized to obtain confidential information pursuant to this subsection.

2. Except as otherwise provided in [NRS 49.245](#), the confidential records of immunizations are privileged and may be released only to:

(a) The patient or the authorized agent of the patient;

(b) Physicians and other pharmacists, or intern pharmacists or pharmaceutical technicians acting under the direct and immediate supervision of pharmacists, when, in the professional judgment of the pharmacist, intern pharmacist or pharmaceutical technician, such release is necessary to protect the health and well-being of the patient;

(c) The Board or other federal, state or local agencies authorized by law to receive such information;

(d) A law enforcement agency engaged in the investigation of a suspected violation involving a controlled substance or dangerous drug;

(e) A person employed by any state agency that licenses a physician if such a person is engaged in the performance of his or her official duties; or

(f) An insurance carrier or other third-party payor authorized by a patient to receive such information.

3. The provisions of this section must not be construed to affect or alter the provisions of [NRS 49.215](#) to [49.245](#), inclusive, relating to the confidentiality of communications between a doctor and a patient.

(Added to NAC by Bd. of Pharmacy by R009-01, eff. 11-1-2001; A by R180-05, 12-29-2005; R142-20, 9-21-2020)

All pharmaceutical technicians who administer immunizations are now required to complete 1 hour of CE specific to immunizations on an annual basis.

A few other waivers intended to assist with the overwhelming need of pharmacy personnel to assist with immunizations were adopted during the pandemic. At this point all waivers have expired and all pharmacy personnel must follow the statutes and regulations as defined by law.



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Nevada Pharmacy Personnel Administered Immunization:

The following table is the most accurate data available on immunizations administered by pharmacy personnel from April 1st, 2023 – March 31st, 2024. The source of the data is WebIZ.

Vaccine	Number of immunizations administered
Hepatitis A (Pediatric/Adolescent/Adult)	9,994
Hepatitis B	21,935
HPV (Human Papillomavirus)	6,400
Influenza	389,860
Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)	7,724
Meningococcal diseases	11,079
Pneumococcal diseases	36,642
Polio (inactivated)	1,195
Tdap (Diphtheria, tetanus toxoids, and acellular pertussis)	44,327
Typhoid	650
Varicella (chicken pox)	4,348
Zoster Vaccine subunits	92,172
COVID	310,421
Respiratory Syncytial Virus	94,998
Rabies	246
Total	1,031,991



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Comparative Data:

Total number of immunizations administered by pharmacy staff annually:

Year	Number of immunizations administered
2012 - 2013	213,751
2013 – 2014	236,285
2014 – 2015	270,483
2015 – 2016	306,560
2016 – 2017	294,163
2017 – 2018	334,715
2018 – 2019	418,177
2019 - 2020	514,325
2020- 2021	944,235
2021 - 2022	2,827,601
2022- 2023	1,252,803
2023-2024	1,031,991

Total number of influenza immunizations administered by pharmacy staff annually:

Year	Number of immunizations administered
2012 - 2013	181,864
2013 – 2014	203,668
2014 – 2015	224,083
2015 – 2016	219,801
2016 – 2017	226,110
2017 – 2018	263,218
2018 – 2019	301,568
2019 - 2020	350,574
2020 - 2021	456,403
2021 - 2022	427,164
2022- 2023	423,927
2023-2024	389,860



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Total number of COVID-19 immunizations administered by pharmacy staff annually:

Year	Number of immunizations administered
2021-2022	2,249,216
2022-2023	622,204
2023-2024	310,421

Total number of Respiratory Syncytial Virus immunizations administered by pharmacy staff annually:

Year	Number of immunizations administered
2023-2024	94,998

Discussion:

The overall decrease in total vaccinations is directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic that began in early 2020. With the changing from a pandemic to an endemic the number of total vaccinations related to COVID-19 dropped significantly over the last two reporting years. Pharmacy staff continue to provide a significant role in the COVID-19 vaccination process as documented by the 310,421 vaccines administered during the timeframe listed. The utilization of both pharmacy interns and pharmaceutical technicians to assist with the vaccination process was essential in fulfilling the needs of the public. Pharmacies continue to be the main point of contact for the majority of patients who requested the COVID-19 vaccine. Pharmacists will continue to play an active role in the administration of COVID-19 vaccines throughout the endemic. Respiratory Syncytial Virus vaccines were first introduced during this reporting period and based on the number of immunizations provided (94,998) it appears that the people of Nevada are strongly supporting the utilization of this new product.



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Adverse Drug Reactions/Administration Errors:

Discussion:

The overall incidence of adverse drug reactions/administration errors remains extremely low. The reporting information is based on self-reporting from pharmacies as there is no State database to track this information. The lack of a centralized reporting database for this information is directly related to the low incidence of reporting. Any patient specific complaints that are reported to NVBOP are addressed through the normal investigation process.

Immunization Reporting:

Effective January 28th, 2010 all ACIP recommended vaccinations administered to children and adults must be recorded in Nevada WebIZ. This means that patients of all ages who receive a vaccination must be entered in WebIZ. The law requires entry for all vaccines, regardless of purchase method.

WebIZ contact information:

Help Desk phone number – 775-684-5954

E-mail – izit@health.nv.gov

Website – www.webiz.nv.gov

Conclusion:

Pharmacy staff member administration of immunizations continues to be a significant annual amount with the addition of new products and increased patient awareness of the benefits of immunizations. Allowing pharmacy staff members to provide this service decreases the burden on other healthcare entities and the availability of locations in every area allows for easy patient access.