



# Administration of Injections: Frequently Asked Questions

## Who can administer drugs and vaccines by injections in Manitoba?

Pharmacy interns and licensed pharmacists who have obtained Authorization to Administer Drugs and Vaccines by Injection from the College of Pharmacists of Manitoba (CPhM) can administer drugs and vaccines by injection.

## Do I need authorization to administer injections?

Yes! Interns and pharmacists must obtain Authorization to Administer Drugs and Vaccines by Injection from CPhM before administering injections. Those who have injection authority as an intern must apply for injection authorization when applying for a pharmacist license; injection authority as an intern is not transferred over to a pharmacist license. See [Administering Drugs and Vaccines by Injection | College of Pharmacists of Manitoba](#) for more information on training requirements and how to apply.

## What methods/route can pharmacists use for administering a drug by injection?

Intradermal, subcutaneous or intramuscular.

## What is the age of patients to whom pharmacists can administer injections?

- Two (2) years of age and older: Influenza and coronavirus 2 (COVID-19) vaccines
- Five (5) years of age and older: Any drug other than a vaccine
- Seven (7) years of age and older: Tdap, pneumococcal, HPV, Td vaccines and all other vaccines

## Who is an authorized practitioner?

Currently, only medical practitioners or physicians, dentists and nurse practitioners are included in the definition of authorized practitioner as it applies to the practice of pharmacy in Manitoba. A pharmacist is not considered an authorized practitioner.

## What drugs and vaccines can a pharmacist administer by injection?

### Drugs (excluding vaccines)

Drugs that can be administered without a prescription from an authorized practitioner:

- None – a prescription from an authorized practitioner is needed to inject all drugs (regardless if they are prescription or over-the-counter).

Drugs, that can be administered with a prescription from an authorized practitioner:

- No restrictions as long as the pharmacist or intern:
  - possesses the requisite knowledge, skill and judgement; AND
  - follows the appropriate procedures and precautions for the safe preparation and administration; AND
  - is equipped to handle any potential adverse reactions following the administration.
- Notes - A pharmacist cannot administer [neuromodulators or dermal fillers](#). Additional requirements or precautions are in place for pharmacist administration of [Sublocade](#) or hazardous [drugs](#). This guidance does not apply to the administration of drugs such as epinephrine or naloxone for use in an emergency.



### Vaccines

Vaccines that can be administered without a prescription from an authorized practitioner:

- A vaccine listed in Schedule 2 to the Pharmaceutical Regulation, when provided under the Manitoba Health, Seniors and Long-term Care provincial publicly funded immunization program free of charge to patients who meet provincial [criteria](#). These are:
  - 1) human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine
  - 2) influenza vaccine
  - 3) pneumococcal vaccine
  - 4) severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (COVID-19) vaccine
  - 5) tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine
  - 6) tetanus-diphtheria (Td) vaccine
- Note - If a publicly funded vaccine not listed under Schedule 2 is prescribed and the patient is eligible under the provincial program criteria, the pharmacist cannot administer it. Instead, the pharmacist should refer the patient to another health care provider where they can obtain the immunization.

Vaccines that can be administered with a prescription from an authorized practitioner:

- No restrictions as long as the pharmacist or intern:
  - possesses the requisite knowledge, skill and judgement; AND
  - follows the appropriate procedures and precautions for the safe preparation and administration; AND
  - is equipped to handle any potential adverse reactions following the administration.

### **What happens if my CPR or First Aid certification expires while I have injection authority?**

You must stop administering injections immediately if you no longer hold the appropriate CPR and First Aid certification. Your injection authorization will be cancelled and will not be reinstated until you have reapplied with proof of current CPR and First Aid certification. Please contact the CPhM office or visit [Administering Drugs and Vaccines by Injection | College of Pharmacists of Manitoba](#) for information on the minimum training requirements.

### **RESOURCES**

- [Administering Drugs and Vaccines by Injection | College of Pharmacists of Manitoba](#)
- [Practice Direction Standard of Practice # 5: Administration of Drugs including Vaccines](#)
- [Shoulder Injury Related to Vaccine Administration: Causes, Response, and Prevention](#)
- [Immunization Program Manual for Immunization Providers in Manitoba](#)
- [Pharmacist Administration of Hazardous Medications](#)
- [Administration of Injections to Young Children \(Ages 2-5\) Resource List](#)
- [Medication Incidents in COVID-19 Vaccine Administration in Children: Contributing Factors and Prevention Strategies](#)
- [Manitoba Module: Administration of Injections \(for reference without post-test\)](#)

**Note:** This document provides an overview of administering injections and is intended to supplement not replace what is outlined in the Regulation, practice direction(s) and provincial immunization standards.