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THIS CHAPTER MEETS THE FOLLOWING IMMUNIZATION COMPETENCIES FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONAL (PHAC, 2008): <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/im/pdf/ichp-cips-eng.pdf>

14: Legal and Ethical Aspects of Immunization

- ◆ Competency: Acts in accordance with legal and high ethical standards in all aspects of immunization practice.

1.0 IMMUNIZATION PROVIDER RESPONSIBILITY

1.1 Authorization to Immunize

- The Athabasca Health Authority (AHA), the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA), Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and the Northern Inter-Tribal Health (NITHA) are responsible for determining which employees are authorized to administer publicly funded vaccines and the circumstances under which immunization may occur.
- AHA, SHA, ISC and NITHA must ensure safe immunization practices, including establishing orientation and competency maintenance requirements and related procedures.
- Authorization to immunize and associated practices must comply with requirements and standards of the applicable professional regulatory body, such as the [College of Registered Nurses of Saskatchewan](#).

1.2 Provision of Publicly Funded Immunizations by Registered Nurses Employed by Organizations Other than Public Health

Registered nurses employed outside public health who oversee or provide publicly funded immunization services must comply with the requirements and standards established by their employer and the CRNS including:

- *Medication Management Guideline CRNS, 2026*. Available at: <https://www.crns.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Medication-Management-Guideline.pdf>

1.3 Provision of Publicly Funded Immunizations by Community Vaccine Providers that are not Registered Nurses

Community vaccine providers, including physicians, physician assistants, pharmacists, licensed practical nurses, paramedics and respiratory therapists, may administer publicly funded vaccines within their legislated professional scope of practice and their employer's requirements and practice standards. Community vaccine providers must:

- Follow the [Saskatchewan Immunization Manual](#) (SIM) and all contained immunization guidelines.
- Maintain vaccine potency by adhering to requirements for vaccine transportation, storage, handling, and conservation, and report any cold chain breaks to the local health office within one working day.
- Comply with organizational requirements for documenting and reporting the administration of publicly funded vaccines.
- Report all adverse events following immunization (AEFI) in accordance with provincial legislation. Refer to [SIM Chapter 11: Adverse Events Following Immunization](#) for additional information.

1.4 National Advisory Committee on Immunization Recommendations

The SIM is based primarily on the recommendations from the [National Advisory Committee on Immunization](#) (NACI), as published in the [Canadian Immunization Guide](#) (CIG), the [Canada Communicable Disease Reports](#) (CCDR), and the Saskatchewan [Communicable Disease Control Manual](#).

Saskatchewan's publicly funded immunization programs may differ from NACI recommendations. Where differences exist, the policies and program requirements outlined in the SIM govern publicly funded immunization programs in Saskatchewan.

- NACI vaccine statements published in the CCDCR supersede related guidance in the current CIG and should be consulted for the most current recommendations
- Immunization providers must have access to the SIM and follow its policies, procedures, and publicly funded immunization program requirements.

2.0 IMMUNIZATION COMPETENCY

2.1 Education Program for Immunization Competencies

The [*Education Program for Immunization Competencies*](#) (EPIC), developed by the Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS) in collaboration with the Public Health Agency of Canada and Health Canada provides education based on the [*Immunization Competencies for Health Professionals*](#) (PHAC, 2008). The program supports the knowledge and skills required for safe and effective immunization practice.

The EPIC program is designed for all healthcare providers who administer vaccines. The self-guided program online program covers key components of immunization practice, including vaccine administration, vaccine safety, communication, and immunization program delivery. Upon successful completion of the program, immunization providers are better prepared to:

- Provide accurate, complete, and evidence-informed information about immunization.
- Apply safe and competent immunization practices.
- Support public confidence in immunization contributing to improved vaccine coverage.

3.0 REFERENCES

Canadian Pediatric Society. (No date). *Education Program for Immunization Competencies*. Available at: <https://cps.ca/en/epic>

College of Registered Nurses of Saskatchewan (2026). *Medication Management Guideline CRNS*. Regina, SK. Available at: <https://www.crns.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Medication-Management-Guideline.pdf>

Public Health Agency of Canada. *Canadian Immunization Guide*. (Evergreen Ed.) Ottawa, On: Available at: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/cig-gci/index-eng.php>

Public Health Agency of Canada. *Canadian Communicable Disease Reports*. Available at: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/ccdr-rmtc/index-eng.php>

Public Health Agency of Canada (2008). *National Immunization Competencies for Health Professionals*. Ottawa, ON: Author. Available at <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/im/pdf/ichp-cips-eng.pdf>