Responsibilities of Alberta Health Services and External Vaccine Providers

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The provision of routine immunization programs and targeted immunization programs is a vital public health priority in Alberta. Public health nurses provide childhood immunization in Alberta. See Service Delivery.

All publicly-funded vaccines are provided for use in provincially defined immunization programs only. An individual eligible for a publicly-funded vaccine will not be charged for either the vaccine or the administration (injection and written record) of that vaccine. Charges for administration of a vaccine can be levied only to the individual who purchases his or her own vaccine or to the employer.

Alberta Health Services Responsibilities

- Ensure that AHS Immunization Standards are congruent with Alberta Immunization Policy.
- Develop and implement plans to ensure that Alberta’s goals and objectives for immunization are attained. See Immunization Goals and Objectives.
- Ensure that children (0 to 17 years of age) are offered and have access to routine immunization according to Alberta’s Immunization Policies.
- Update immunization according to age and eligibility criteria as adults (18 years of age and older) present to public health.
- Provide immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases to targeted high-risk populations.
- Monitor immunization coverage of children and specified populations.
- Follow up on children who are not up to date for immunization as per schedules specified in the Alberta Immunization Policy.
- Ensure that public health professionals in AHS Zones are current in their knowledge of immunization practice.
- Obtain informed consent prior to any immunization.
- Report adverse events following immunization to Alberta Health. Refer to: Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) Policy for Alberta Immunization Providers. See Management of Biological Products - Storage and Handling of Biological Products and Alberta Vaccine Cold Chain Policy.
- Supply specific publicly-funded vaccines to external providers (e.g., physicians), ensuring these providers manage, monitor, record, report and deliver immunization services to adults according to provincial policies.
- Have regional plans in place to support public health efforts for mass immunization campaigns if needed (e.g., pandemic influenza).

Community Provider Responsibilities

- Includes everyone (outside of public health delivered programs) providing immunization and using publicly-funded vaccines.
- Collaborate and consult with public health in the AHS Zones.
- Adhere to the guidelines outlined in the Alberta Immunization Policy when administering publicly-funded vaccines.
- Report the administration of publicly-funded vaccines to AHS as directed by the AHS Zone. Include individual’s name, date of birth, personal health number, date of immunization, vaccine name and manufacturer, lot number, dose, site and route of administration and name and title of the person administering the vaccine.
Obtain informed consent prior to immunization.

Report adverse events following immunization to the local AHS Zone. Refer to: Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) Policy for Alberta Immunization Providers.

Maintain immunization records.

Ensure that vaccines maintain potency through optimal transportation, storage and handling. See Management of Biological Products - Storage and Handling of Biological Products and Alberta Vaccine Cold Chain Policy and Alberta Health Influenza Immunization Policy (IIP).

Ensure knowledge of immunization practice is current.

Physician Responsibilities

Discuss immunization with patients and parents/guardians.

Refer children and other patients to public health professionals for immunization.

Provide specific publicly-funded vaccines (influenza, pneumococcal, dTap, and Td) to at-risk and/or adult patients.

Collaborate with public health professionals to meet all reporting requirements related to publicly-funded vaccines.

References


