

CP 4.19: Influenza Vaccination

Reviewed: 2023-01-03

Purpose

The Community Paramedic (CP) works together with primary care providers to support patients in the community wherever possible. In some cases, Nurses, Nurse Practitioners or Physicians may request assistance from the CP through the normal request for service process to help administer influenza vaccines to patients.

Policy Statements

The CP should demonstrate the attitudes, knowledge, and clinical skills necessary to provide safe and effective immunization administration. In order to provide Influenza vaccinations, CPs must have completed:

- [BCCDC Online Immunization Competency Course](#)
- [Foundations of Influenza: Disease & Vaccine](#)
- [Seasonal Influenza Updates 2021/22](#)
- [Immunization Communication Module](#)

CPs can provide the full scope of functions related to the immunizations following a request for service from a Physician or Nurse Practitioner in a Health Authority supervised clinic once "signed off" by the RN, MD or NP.

Homebound influenza vaccination is limited to those Health Authorities agreeing to provide virtual clinic supervision. Check with leadership if your local Health Authority has agreed to that provision.

Guideline

In response to a request for OUTREACH SERVICE from a primary health care provider, and following standardized procedures for CP patient visits, the CP will:

- Assess the patient, obtain informed consent, prepare, and educate the patient
- Prepare the vaccine, administer the vaccine, monitor, and manage any adverse events
- Document, in the appropriate public health database, all suitable clinic patients as requested by the regional Medical Health Officer delegated Physician, Nurse Practitioner or Registered Nurse

In response to provide homebound vaccination an urgent primary care service request is required for each address. Homebound service requires a virtual clinical supervisor be assigned by the Health Authority to support the CP. If this is not provided, the paramedic is not in compliance with the PHO, and must decline the request.

In all situations of relative contraindications, the patient should be reviewed by one of the aforementioned health professionals before proceeding with vaccination.

Procedure

1. Obtain service request
 - Complete clinic orientation for available equipment and document entry into database during clinic. Clinics may work as teams with specific roles or may work as a group of independent practitioners.
 - For homebound patients, conduct a clinical review of suitability, liaising with home support team and consulting with a virtual clinical supervisor prior to administration.
2. Explain purpose of the Influenza vaccine and assess patient's understanding of procedure and discuss any concerns the patient may have prior to immunization.
 - Confirm suitability for vaccine with an RN, NP or MD if any relative contraindications exist
 - Use BCCDC Q&A resources to support discussions with patient
3. Review possible complications or reactions with the patient and verify their understanding of when follow-up care from the primary health care provider would be required.
 - Refer to and follow the BCCDC immunization manual for best practice guidance to direct provision of immunization services
4. Confirm identity and obtain verbal consent prior to undergoing any procedure
5. Wash your hands with soap & water, or with alcohol-based hand sanitizer

6. Review any issues with safe storage of vaccine
 - Check three times that it is the correct product: 1) when removing from refrigerator, 2) when drawing up/reconstituting and 3) prior to administration
7. Practice the 8 RIGHTS of safe medication administration:
 - Right patient
 - Right drug
 - Right dose
 - Right route
 - Right time
 - Right reason
 - Right frequency
 - Right documentation
8. Administer vaccine
 - Always read product-specific page in the BC Immunization Manual, Part 4 – Biological Products to ensure vaccine is prepared appropriately
 - Select appropriate site for administration
 - Use sterile technique for administration of intramuscular injections
 - Practice principles of safe sharps handling
9. Communicate with the primary care provider if any other concerns arise. It is recommended that all immunized clients are observed for 15 minutes post-immunization and stay on-site for a total of 30 minutes.
10. Review BCCDC Immunization Manual, Part 5 – Adverse Events Following Immunization as required. If severe adverse reaction, refer the BCEHS CPG [E09: Anaphylaxis](#).
11. Report any adverse events following immunization immediately to the primary health care provider

Documentation

In Clinic:

- Document in the approved public health immunization record provided by the Health Authority
- Provide the patient with a personal immunization record card with the following information:
 - Name of the vaccine
 - Dose or amount given
 - Route
 - Initials and title of person administering vaccine
- No additional BCEHS documentation is required.

Homebound:

- Document as above on the public health record provided
- Document in Siren ePCR on the CP immunization section:
 - Name of the biological product
 - Date
 - Route of administration
 - Anatomical site
 - Name of the biological product manufacturer
 - Lot number
 - Name and title of the person administering the biological product
 - Any reactions following immunization
 - Any recommended biological products not given (declined, deferred, or contraindicated)
 - Informed consent for immunization obtained
- Provide the patient with a personal immunization record card with the following information:

- Name of the vaccine
- Dose or amount given
- Route
- Initials and title of person administering vaccine
- If you consulted with your virtual clinical supervisor (i.e., health authority MD/NP/RN) and/or CliniCall, document this in Siren under Procedures

References & Supporting Resources

1. [BCCDC Immunization Manual](#)
 - [Appendix A: Informed Consent](#)
 - [Part 1: Immunization Schedules](#)
 - [Appendix B: Administration of Biological Products](#)
 - [Appendix D: Reducing Immunization Injection Pain](#)
 - [Appendix C: Contraindications and precautions for immunizations](#)
 - [Appendix F: Principles of Immunology](#)
 - [Part 5: Adverse Events following Vaccination](#)
2. [BCEHS CPG E09: Anaphylaxis](#)
3. [BCCDC Vaccine Safety](#)
4. [Government of Canada Immunization Guide](#)
5. [2021/22 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Eligibility](#)

