



Section B Information Specific to Registered Nurses and Registered Midwives for the administration of COVID-19 vaccine to infants and children aged 6 months – 4 years

Statutory Instruments No. 698 of 2020, No. 8 of 2021, No.43 of 2021 identifies registered nurses and registered midwives as one of the professions that can administer the COVID-19 vaccines, subject to approval of an education programme by the regulatory body concerned.

In order to administer the vaccine, registered nurses and registered midwives must be familiar with the most up to date version of the COVID-19 master medicine protocol. Registered nurses and registered midwives must also have completed the Competency Assessment Form included in this section. The medicine protocol and Competency Assessment Form are available at www.immunisation.ie.

Professional Qualifications, Training, Experience and Competence Required

<p>Professional qualifications, training, experience and competence required prior to using this medicine protocol</p>	<p>The registered nurse or registered midwife must have completed all of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Be a Registered Nurse or Registered Midwife, on the active register maintained by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI)2. COVID-19 Vaccination Programme for Nurses and Midwives accessible on www.HSElanD.ie3. NIO COVID-19 Vaccination Training Programme – Infants and Children aged 6 months-4 years accessible on www.HSElanD.ie4. An approved <i>Basic Life Support for Health Care Providers Course</i> within the last two years (i.e. Irish Heart Foundation (IHF)). Recertification is required every two years5. Initial <i>National Anaphylaxis Education Programme for Health Care Professionals</i> accessible on www.HSElanD.ie followed by a two hour classroom based skills workshop. Recertification is required every two years by completing the on-line <i>National Anaphylaxis Education Programme for Health Care Professionals</i> accessible on www.HSElanD.ie6. Self-Assessment of Competency Form to administer the <i>COVID-19-Vaccine</i> to infants and children aged 6 months-4 years old, (see below) accessible on www.immunisation.ie.7. COVAX IBM/Salesforce online programme accessible at https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/hsecovid19vms.html <p>Recommended:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Storing and Managing Vaccines</i>, available at www.HSElanD.ie
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Supporting Documents for Registered Nurses and Registered Midwives

An Bord Altranais (2007) *Guidance to Nurses and Midwives on Medication Management* Dublin: An Bord Altranais Health Service Executive

Government of Ireland *Statutory Instruments*. Dublin: Stationery Office

National Clinical Guideline No. 30 (2023) – Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a057e-infection-prevention-and-control-ipc/>.

National Immunisation Advisory Committee (2023) Anaphylaxis: Immediate Management in the community

https://rcpi.access.preservica.com/uncategorized/IO_4283f8d0-dcaf-4fae-974e-71421ddcc51f/

National Immunisation Advisory Committee *Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland* Dublin: Royal College of Physicians

Ireland. Online update available at: <https://www.rcpi.ie/Healthcare-Leadership/NIAC/Immunisation-Guidelines-for-Ireland>

National Immunisation Office (2023) Dublin: Clinical Guidance for COVID-19 Vaccination

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/covid19vaccineinfo4hps/clinicalguidance.pdf>

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (2021) *Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Registered Nurses and*

Registered Midwives. Dublin: Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland available at: <http://www.nmbi.ie/Standards-Guidance/Code>

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (2022) *Practice Standards for Midwives*. Dublin: Nursing and Midwifery Board of

Ireland available at: <http://www.nmbi.ie/Standards-Guidance/Midwives-Standards>.

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (2015) *Recording Clinical Practice. Guidance to Nurses and Midwives*. Dublin:

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland available at: <http://www.nmbi.ie/Standards-Guidance/More-Standards-Guidance/Recording-Clinical-Practice>

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (2015) *Scope of Nursing and Midwifery Practice Framework*. Dublin: Nursing and

Midwifery Board of Ireland available at: <http://www.nmbi.ie/Standards-Guidance/Scope-of-Practice/Nursing-Practise-Scope-Definition>

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (2020) *Guidance for Registered Nurses and Midwives on Medication*

Administration. Dublin: Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland, available at: <http://www.nmbi.ie>



NAME: _____

(PRINT CLEARLY in CAPITALS)

NMBI PIN Number _____

Self-Assessment of Competency to administer COVID-19 vaccine under medicine protocol by registered nurses and registered midwives to infants and children aged 6 months to 4 years. Please complete and discuss with your line manager/clinical lead prior to vaccinating this cohort.

No	Performance Criteria Critical Element	(Tick/date/initial as applicable)		
		Competent Date/Initials	Needs Practice Date/Initials	Needs Theory Date/Initials
1	I practice within my scope of practice (Scope of Nursing and Midwifery Practice Framework, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI, 2015) to undertake administration of COVID-19 vaccine to infants and children aged 6 months to 4 years under medicine protocol			
2	I understand that vaccines are prescription only medicines (POM) and prior to administration require either: 1. a valid prescription for individual vaccines or 2. a medicine protocol for individual vaccines			
3	I understand the role and function of medicine protocols in the context of NMBI guidelines in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Code of Professional and Ethical Conduct for Registered Nurses and Registered Midwives (NMBI, 2021) Scope of Nursing and Midwifery Practice Framework (NMBI, 2015) Guidance for Registered Nurses and Midwives on Medication Administration (NMBI, 2020) (Guiding Principle 2, page 12, 2.8) Guidance to Nurses and Midwives on Medication Management (An Bord Altranais, 2007) 			
4	I have read and understood the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland (NIAC) Clinical Guidance for COVID-19 Vaccination (NIO, 2023) COVID-19 Vaccination Training Programme – Infants and Children aged 6 months- 4 years accessible on www.HSEIreland.ie I undertake to review the most current vaccination information from the NIO available at: www.immunisation.ie			
5	I have read and understood the current Medicine Protocol for this immunisation programme			
6	I can outline the inclusion/exclusion criteria for administering COVID-19 vaccine to infants and children aged 6 months to 4 years under the named medicine protocol			
7	I am competent in safe intramuscular injection (IM) technique for infants and children from 6 months to 11 months on vastus lateralis muscle and 12 months – 4 years on vastus lateralis muscle or deltoid muscle based on their muscle mass (refer to the NIAC Immunisation Guidelines, Chapter2)			
8	I understand if further education and training is required in intramuscular injection technique for infants and children aged 6 months to 4 years on vastus lateralis /deltoid muscle based on their age and muscle mass, I am required: i) to attend a face to face education/training provided by the HSE or HSE contracted providers and ii) complete part 2 of this competency assessment form (observation and			

	demonstration of IM injection technique on vastus lateralis muscle at the vaccination clinic if required after completion of face to face training)			
9	<p>I have successfully completed the following www.hseland.ie programmes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AMRIC Aseptic Technique 2. AMRIC Hand Hygiene 3. GDPR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Consent Policy (HSE, 2022) available at: https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/qid/otherquality-improvement-programmes/consent/nationalconsent-policy.html • Introduction to Children First accessible on www.HSELand.ie • Children Having Vaccinations and Health Care Procedures accessible on www.HSELand.ie 			
10	I have attended an approved Basic Life Support for Health Care Providers Course within the last two years (i.e. Irish Heart Foundation (IHF))			
11	<p>I have successfully completed an approved anaphylaxis programme as outlined in section B of the medicine protocol. I am familiar with NIAC (2023) Anaphylaxis: Immediate Management in the community available at: https://rcpi.access.preservica.com/uncategorized/IO_a36f9e4b-4c80-432d-8264-546089359925/</p>			
12	In assessing suitability for vaccination I can undertake a clinical assessment of infants and children presenting for vaccination within the scope of the medicine protocol			
13	I can refer the infant/child who meets the exclusion criteria to the relevant medical practitioner/clinical lead/lead vaccinator for an individual medical assessment as per medicine protocol			
14	I understand the agreed process, including ICT systems if applicable for the accurate and appropriate documentation in the infant/child record for vaccine administration			
15	I will adhere to the correct procedure/guideline prior to the administration of the vaccine as per medicine protocol			
16	I can provide accurate relevant information regarding the vaccine, benefits and side effects to the child/parent/legal guardian			
17	<p>I am aware of the procedure for treatment and reporting of adverse drug reactions to the Health Products Regulatory Authority if required available at: www.hpra.ie</p>			
18	I understand the procedure for reporting and documentation of medication errors/near misses as per HSE Incident Management Framework (2020)			
19	<p>I dispose of single use equipment and sharps in accordance with National Clinical Guideline No. 30 (2023) – Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) available at: https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a057e-infection-prevention-and-control-ipc/ .</p>			
20	I am aware of and comply with the guidance on vaccine handling, delivery and storage including the maintenance of the cold chain in accordance with national and local policies, procedures, protocols and guidelines (PPPGs).			
21	I have the appropriate communication skills to communicate effectively with the child and their parent/legal guardian.			

Part 2
 Complete this section if the registered nurse/registered midwife is not competent to administer an IM injection on the vastus lateralis muscle of the anterolateral thigh. Vaccinators are required to observe and demonstrate the administration of a minimum of three (3) IM injections under direct supervision of a competent vaccinator.

Intramuscular injection technique observed on vastus lateralis muscle of the anterolateral thigh						
Competent vaccinator name:		Date	Date	Date		
Competent vaccinator signature:						
		Supervised Assessments			Competence Demonstrated Yes/No	Signature of Competent vaccinator
	Skills Required	Date	Date	Date		
Competency	Positions vaccine recipient appropriately and chooses appropriate vaccination site i.e. use of vastus lateralis muscle of the anterolateral thigh					
	Demonstrates correct intramuscular injection technique in the vastus lateralis muscle of the anterolateral thigh					

I have been deemed competent to administer COVID-19 vaccine using the vastus lateralis muscle of the anterolateral thigh in infants and children aged 6 months to 4 years.

I have sufficient theoretical knowledge and practice to administer COVID – 19 vaccine to infants and children aged 6 months to 4 years independently, and I acknowledge my responsibility to maintain my own competence in line with the Scope of Nursing and Midwifery Practice Framework (NMBI, 2015) and current best evidence.

Registered Nurse/Registered Midwife Name: _____

Registered Nurse/Registered Midwife Signature: _____

NMBI PIN: _____

Date: _____

If any deficits in theory and/or clinical practice are identified, the registered nurse/registered midwife must discuss with relevant Line Manager/Employer and implement an appropriate action plan to achieve competency within an agreed time frame

Action Plan (for use if needed to reach competence outlined)

Action necessary to achieve competence:

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Date to be achieved:

Supporting evidence of measures taken to achieve competence:

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Registered Nurse/ Registered Midwife Signature: _____

Name and title of Line Manager/Clinical Lead: _____

Line Manager/Clinical Lead Signature: _____

Date achieved: _____

