

Advisory document to support the delivery of the National Minimum Standards and Core Curriculum for vaccination Training in NHS Wales

The [National Minimum Standards and Core Curriculum for Vaccination Training](#) guidance for all healthcare staff with a role in delivering vaccination programmes, is a revised, updated and combined version of the 'National Minimum Standards and Core Curriculum for Vaccination Training for Registered Healthcare Practitioners' (2018) and the 'National Minimum Standards and Core Curriculum for Vaccination Training of Healthcare Support Workers' (2015), which were both published by Public Health England (PHE).

This guidance has been revised and re-published as a UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) document, previously it was published in collaboration with other nations and Public Health Wales was a key contributor. Public Health Wales were one of the organisations that contributed to the recent review of this guidance. As this guidance is now a UKHSA document, it was considered important to highlight any specific issues relating to NHS Wales that are not reflected or may differ to England within an advisory document.

Prepared by: Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme

Any queries regarding the content of this advisory document should be addressed to: phw.vaccines@wales.nhs.uk

This advisory document should be used in conjunction with the [National Minimum Standards and Core Curriculum for Vaccination Training](#)

The table below outlines information and policy specific to NHS Wales, which should be taken into consideration when reading the National Minimum Standards and core curriculum for vaccination training.

Page number	Topic in UKHSA standards	Information relevant for NHS Wales
2	Flu training recommendations Under acknowledgements section the standards state that UKHSA 'Flu vaccination training recommendations'	Flu training recommendations Specific flu training recommendations for Wales will continue to be published in a separate guidance document. Available to view here: Immunisation training resources and events - Public Health Wales



	written to address the specific challenges of training during the COVID-19 pandemic, have also been incorporated.	
6	Contractual & legal responsibilities - core contractual arrangement specific to Wales need to be followed	<p>Contractual & legal responsibilities</p> <p>The NHS England General practice vaccination and vaccination services: standards and core contractual requirements states that 'all healthcare professionals involved in the administration of vaccines must have the necessary skills and training'.</p> <p>It is important that the core contractual arrangement specific to Wales are followed which may be different from NHS England.</p>
6	Patient Group Directions (PGDs) stipulate that their users are trained – link to Welsh Medicines Advice Service	<p>Patient Group Directions (PGDs) stipulate that their users are trained</p> <p>Home - Welsh Medicines Advice Service (WMAS)</p> <p>Some of the PGD templates are provided by UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) which can be used as a reference resource. Health Boards or NHS Organisations may use these to develop, produce and authorise their own PGDs according to local policies and governance procedures. We gratefully acknowledge UKHSA for permission to use their PGDs as a reference resource. UKHSA do not allow the addition of local logos or adaptation to their PGDs.</p> <p>An advisory document will only be provided by WMAS to support the UKHSA reference resource when there are policy differences in Wales.</p> <p>Governance and sign off, of any PGD is the responsibility of each authorising organisation. Practitioners using authorised PGDs must be familiar with the relevant Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC), Welsh policy and guidance, and national guidance, such as the</p>



		<p>relevant chapters of the Green Book for all immunisation PGDs.</p> <p>Any queries regarding the clinical content of these PGDs or advisory documents should be addressed to: welshmedicines.information@wales.nhs.uk</p>
7	<p>Healthcare Support Workers (HCSWs)</p>	<p>Healthcare Support Workers (HCSWs) – (non-registered staff)</p> <p>Bullet point 4 on page 7 of the National Minimum Standards and Core Curriculum for Vaccination Training states: <i>it is outside the scope of practice for a HCSW to undertake a clinical assessment for vaccination, take informed consent or work to Patient Group Directions (PGDs).</i></p> <p>National Protocols were temporary legislation brought in during the COVID-19 pandemic; they expired 31 March 2026. A new legal mechanism called a Vaccine Group Direction (VGD) was introduced into UK medicines legislation in April 2026, to support the administration of nationally commissioned vaccination programmes.</p> <p>VGDs provide a structured, legally compliant framework for vaccine delivery, but with greater flexibility, certain operational tasks e.g., vaccine preparation and administration (one step) and record-keeping may be delegated to appropriately trained registered or non-registered staff (staff should continue to be supervised once task has been delegated). However, clinical assessment and obtaining informed consent cannot be delegated and must be carried out by the registered healthcare professionals authorised under the VGD.</p> <p>Further information is available here: Understanding Vaccine Group Directions (VGDs) – NHS SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice</p>



		<p>It is important to note that in some NHS services e.g. General Practice, the main legal mechanism for a vaccine to be administered by a HCSW, is via a Patient Specific Direction (PSD). This is a written (manual or electronic) instruction, signed by a doctor or prescriber, for the vaccine to be administered to a named individual after the prescriber has assessed the patient on an individual basis. Informed consent must also be obtained by the prescriber.</p> <p>Further information can be viewed here: Patient Specific Directions (PSD) – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice</p> <p>WMAS in collaboration with VPDP have developed the following guidance: Supply and administration of vaccines in Wales - Welsh Medicines Advice Service</p> <p>Healthcare support workers experience: On page 7 of the National Minimum Standards and Core Curriculum for Vaccination Training it outlines that: <i>It is recommended that only experienced HCSWs take on a role in administering vaccines. It is expected that these HCSWs will have achieved education and training to Level Three of the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) or equivalent and that they would be working at Level Three or above of the NHS Career Framework.</i> In Wales the QCF is described as the Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales: CQFW Fan Diagram 2023 ENG.pdf</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>Access to national policies</p>	<p>National policies Link to Health circulars: 2024 to 2027 GOV.WALES Policy, letters and Welsh Government</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>Access to advice and support – additional specific</p>	<p>On page 11 under the section: Access to advice and support – additional specific considerations for HCSWs the National</p>



	<p>considerations for HCSWs</p>	<p>Minimum Standards and Core Curriculum for Vaccination Training states: <i>The HCSW must be able to identify the appropriate Registered Health Care Professional (RHCP) to whom the patient can be referred if they require more information to enable an informed decision about vaccination to be made.</i></p> <p><i>The RHCP who has delegated a role in vaccination to the HCSW is accountable for complying with the principles of delegation (as set out in their professional code or standards) and is responsible for the standard of care provided by their team. However, the HCSW is accountable for their own practice. Supervision of HCSWs actively involved in vaccination services must be ongoing.</i></p> <p>When a RHCP delegates the role of vaccination to a HCSW, to support HCSWs and ensure safe practice employers must ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A registered healthcare professional is on-site for supervision, guidance and support. • HCSWs can escalate any concerns or questions to their supervisors. <p>Health Education and Improvement Wales – All Wales guidelines for delegation: heiw.nhs.wales/files/weds-practicing-appropriate-delegation/all-wales-guidelines-for-delegation-2020/</p>
<p>16</p>	<p>eLearning link</p>	<p>eLearning Immisation e-learning - Public Health Wales Online learning is provided by Public Health Wales Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme (VPDP) in partnership with Digital learning Wales</p> <p>This page offers support with getting started with eLearning and hosts immunisation eLearning modules developed by VPDP Public Health Wales, as well as National immunisation eLearning modules produced by UKHSA.</p>



17	Training webpage	Training materials: Immunisation training resources and events - Public Health Wales
27	Clinical process and procedure	<p>Clinical process and procedure 3t In Wales immunisers need to be aware of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Children and Young Persons Integrated System (CYPrIS) • Welsh Immunisation System (WIS)

This advisory document has been approved for use alongside the [National Minimum Standards and Core Curriculum for Vaccination Training](#) by Vaccine Programme Wales, planning and delivery group. Version 2 was approved within the exiting governance structure on 21 May 2026.