

International Health Regulations Vaccination in New Zealand:

Policy for the Approval of Vaccinators

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Approval as a International Health Regulations (IHR) Vaccinator

1. Approval to provide yellow fever vaccination will be restricted to individual medical practitioners. Such approval will be granted by the Director-General of Health upon the recommendation of the medical officer of health for the health district in which the medical practitioner is in practice. The medical officer of health may also consider the nature and peculiarities of that health district.
2. An approved vaccinating centre, for the purpose of ordering and storing yellow fever vaccine for administration by, or under the supervision of, an approved yellow fever vaccinator, will be authorised by the medical officer of health for the health district in which the vaccinating centre is physically situated, after consideration of the nature and peculiarities of that health district.
3. Approval to be either a vaccinator or a vaccinating centre is not transferable.
4. The yellow fever vaccinator and the yellow fever vaccinating centre will accept the conditions of approval in writing.
5. The yellow fever stamp will have the yellow fever approved vaccinator's name and medical council number on it. The approved vaccinator is responsible for the security and safety of the stamp and must return it at the request of the medical officer of health for that health district.
6. Only an approved yellow fever vaccinating centre will order yellow fever vaccine from the supplier. The order will be endorsed by the stamp and signature of an approved yellow fever vaccinator.
7. The Ministry of Health will retain an up to date listing of all:
 - medical practitioners who are approved yellow fever vaccinators
 - approved vaccinating centresand will provide regularly updated copies of the approved vaccinating centres to the supplier of the vaccine.
8. Approval to a medical practitioner will be on the basis of demonstrated knowledge and expertise in:
 - a. the epidemiology of yellow fever
 - b. vaccinology and immunology of yellow fever vaccine
 - c. knowledge of and understanding of the International Health Regulations 2005, particularly Annexes 6 and 7
 - d. basic emergency techniques including resuscitation and the treatment of anaphylaxis.and that yellow fever vaccination takes place subsequent to a formal medical consultation which reviews:
 - routine immunisations
 - other vaccine requirements
 - personal safety issues
 - travel insurance
 - advice on food and water safety
 - prevention of vector, animal and sexually transmitted disease
 - prior express informed consent.

9. Approval will also be after audit and review of the premises where it is proposed that yellow fever vaccination will be administered:
 - a. to demonstrate that the equipment necessary for good vaccination practice is present:
 - vaccine refrigerator
 - cold chain monitoring
 - resuscitation equipment.

(A complete listing of all equipment is contained in the approval of independent vaccinators protocol documents. This document may be used by medical officers of health for approval of yellow fever vaccinating premises. Vaccinating centres that do not deliver National Immunisation Schedule vaccines pay for cold chain audit.)
 - b. to demonstrate that the additional tools, equipment and systems necessary for the appropriate administration of yellow fever vaccine are present:
 - internet access
 - the current edition of International Travel and Health
 - Weekly Epidemiological Record
 - an up-to-date geographical and political atlas or other GIS
 - International Certificates of Vaccination or Prophylaxis that comply with Annex 6 of the International Health Regulations 2005
 - that policies and protocols are in place for:
 - a. managing and reporting yellow fever vaccine associated adverse events
 - b. identifying recipients of vaccine
 - c. and for initiating vaccine recalls.
10. Approval to be a yellow fever approved medical practitioner will be audited and renewable three-yearly subject to:
 - a. the maintenance of expertise and competency by:
 - i. records demonstrating that a number of vaccines, that are, in the considered opinion of the medical officer of health, sufficient to maintain competency have been given
 - ii. remaining current with developments in yellow fever epidemiology, yellow fever vaccinology and any changes to the International Health Regulations 2005
 - iii. remaining current with developments in:
 - routine immunisations
 - other vaccine requirements
 - personal safety issues
 - travel insurance
 - advice on food and water safety
 - prevention of vector, animal and sexually transmitted disease.
11. If, in the opinion of the medical officer of health the required standards have not been met, the individual's approval is revoked and the stamp must be returned to the medical officer of health forthwith.
12. Approval to the vaccinating centre will be renewable annually, subject to both cold chain accreditation and review at the discretion of the medical officer of health.
13. Approval to vaccinating medical practitioners and vaccinating centres may be revocable immediately for breaches of:
 - a. patient safety

and will not be renewable for failures to correct or amend breaches of:

 - b. medical ethics
 - c. the conditions of approval as a yellow fever vaccinating medical practitioner or as yellow fever vaccinating centre as above
 - d. the conditions of approval which are specific to the local health district and which have been determined by the local medical officer of health for the health district in which approval is given.