

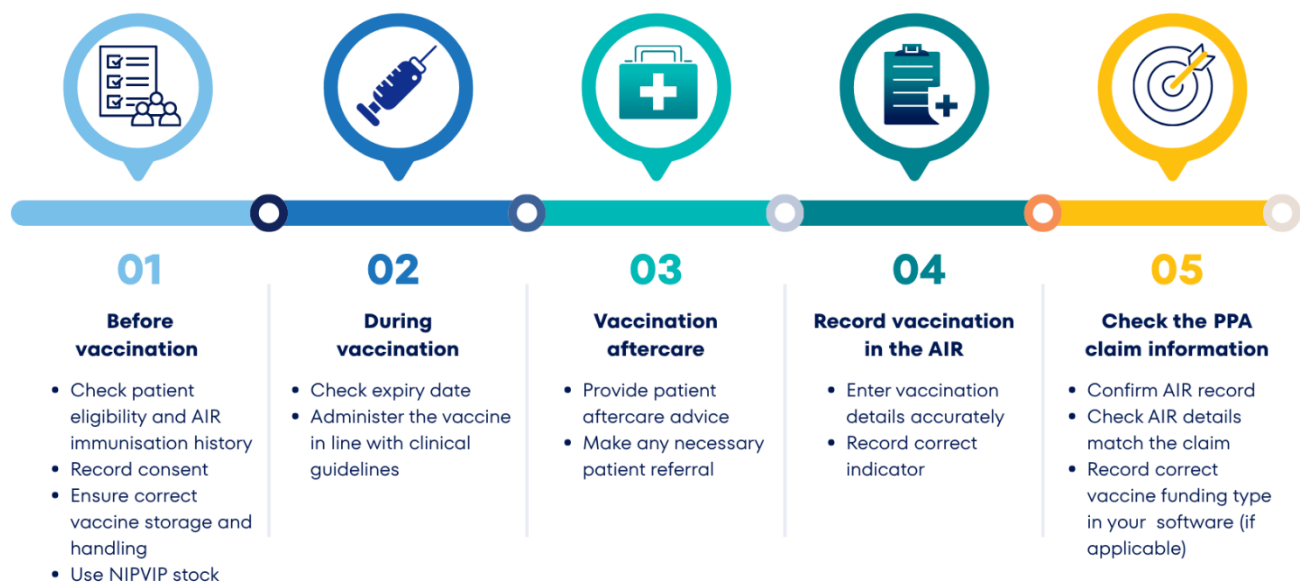


Compliance Bulletin

National Immunisation Program Vaccinations in Pharmacy

This bulletin helps service providers to comply with the [NIPVIP Program Rules](#) by providing useful tips and recommendations based on the PPA Compliance team's routine analysis and monitoring of claims.

NIPVIP service components



The following sections provide more detail on each of the NIPVIP service components.

Before vaccination

A patient is eligible for free vaccine administration under the NIPVIP Program only if they meet all of the following requirements:

- ✓ aged 5 years or over at the time of vaccination
- ✓ eligible to receive the relevant vaccine under the National Immunisation Program (NIP) Schedule
- ✓ have or are eligible for a Medicare card.



It is essential to check the patient's immunisation history in the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) to assess eligibility for the relevant vaccine under the NIP Schedule.

NIPVIP services may be provided in a pharmacy setting or a residential aged care or disability home in line with the NIPVIP Program Rules. Service providers are

responsible for staying informed about changes to the NIPVIP Program and relevant state or territory legislation, including eligible vaccine types, age cohorts and settings.

If a patient has or is eligible for a Medicare card but cannot provide their number, the PPA recommends using the [Find a Patient](#) service in Health Professional Online Services (HPOS) to search for their Medicare details. If a patient is not eligible for Medicare, they are not eligible for a funded NIPVIP service. They can purchase the vaccine privately, and you may charge an administration fee for private vaccinations.

You must obtain appropriate written or verbal consent from the patient or their authorised representative before providing the NIPVIP service. You can use the [NIPVIP Patient Consent Form](#) to explain and record patient consent for the service and disclosure of their personal information to the PPA and the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing. This consent is required for you to claim a payment for providing the NIPVIP service.

For more guidance on obtaining informed consent, refer to [Valid consent in the Australian Immunisation Handbook](#). Where consent forms are used to document consent, you must keep copies of patient consent forms, in digital or hard copy format, for 7 years after submitting a claim for payment under the NIPVIP Program. State or territory regulations may require that these records are retained for longer. Refer to your local health department for details.

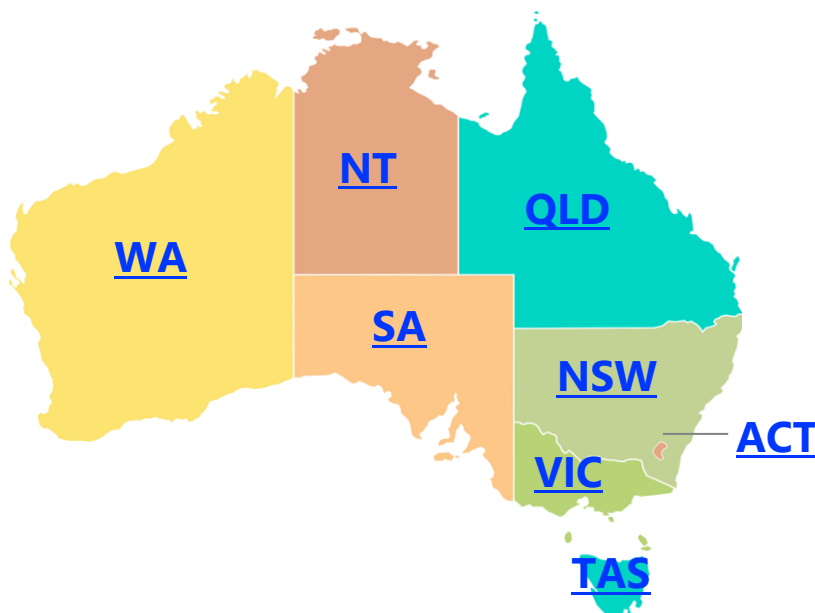
You must follow the [National Vaccine Storage Guidelines 'Strive for 5'](#) when storing, handling or administering vaccines.

Ensure that only NIP stock is used for funded services. Service providers are encouraged to clearly distinguish NIP-funded and privately purchased vaccine stock.

During vaccination

Before administering the vaccine, check that the correct storage temperature has been maintained. Check that the correct vaccine has been taken from the refrigerator and the vaccine is within the expiry date. The Australian Immunisation Handbook contains more advice on [preparing vaccines](#) as well as clinical advice on administering vaccines safely and

effectively. The PPA can only assist with questions about NIPVIP Program requirements. Direct any clinical questions to the state or territory health department where the vaccine is administered. See the map for links.



Vaccination aftercare

The Australian Immunisation Handbook also includes guidance on [after-vaccination procedures](#). The handbook may assist when providing patient aftercare advice, responding to immediate clinical concerns, reporting adverse events after immunisation or making referrals.

Record the vaccination in the AIR

Services Australia provides information on how to [manage immunisation records in the AIR](#). The *Australian Immunisation Register Act 2015* requires vaccination providers to report administration of all NIP vaccines in the AIR and to use the antenatal indicator to report whether an individual was pregnant at the time of vaccination.



Entering correct vaccine information in the AIR is essential to ensure claims are eligible for payment. For example, when administering the Abrysvo RSV vaccine to pregnant women, you must select the antenatal indicator in AIR.

Submit the PPA claim accurately

When submitting a NIPVIP claim, all details should be entered accurately. The claim form includes a declaration that the vaccination has been reported to the AIR, so this must be completed before the claim is submitted. The data entered in the AIR should match the claim information.



If you use pharmacy management software to claim NIPVIP services, confirm with your software vendor which vaccine funding type sends the claim to the PPA for payment. Recording the wrong vaccine funding type may prevent the claim being submitted, which may in turn lead to claiming deadlines being missed.

Compliance support

The PPA encourages you to read the [NIPVIP Program Rules](#) and [PPA General Terms and Conditions](#) carefully. You can also find more compliance educational information in the [Compliance section of the PPA website](#) and the [PPA Monitoring, Compliance and Audit Factsheet](#).

The PPA Compliance team is available to support you and clarify program requirements to help you comply. If you have questions, please call the PPA Support Centre on 1800 951 285 to speak with a member of the Compliance team.