



# Immunisation certification course

## General information

Immunisation services today are being delivered by a variety of health providers in diverse settings. Promoting immunisation across all members of the community increases herd immunity and protects those at greater risk from disease (e.g. people with compromised immune systems, the young and elderly).

The Immunisation certification course has been developed to meet the education and training needs of health providers working across the various health services that provide immunisation services. It is designed to assist them in gaining the knowledge and skills necessary to gain immunisation competence.

The course includes both theoretical and clinical practice components. The self paced, distance education program is designed as a flexible learning course. Learning materials are supplied as part of the study package. The course content is aligned with the National Health and Medical Research Council guidelines with particular emphasis on the Department of Health Western Australia standards of practice.

**The course is designed to support health professionals throughout Western Australia in their expanded and demanding practice role.**


## Eligibility

Course applicants must be registered in Division 1 or 2 of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia.

## Course duration

The theoretical component of the course is allocated **five weeks in duration**.

After this period, the student will undertake a theoretical examination and clinical assessment to gain competency. There is an option to enrol in the theory aspect of the course which will provide the student with a “theory competency” certification upon successful completion. This option may be suitable for health providers who would like to learn more about immunisation or who have roles in immunisation programs, but are not actively administering vaccinations e.g. Immunisation program co-ordinators at local councils.



The need for a clinical practical component will be dependant on students' knowledge and previous clinical experience and is not offered as a mandatory aspect of the course.

**Health professionals who administer immunisations as part of their role are expected to complete the theory (training manual), clinical practice requirements (if needed) and clinical assessment component of the course.**

Course content includes:

- immunity
- routine immunisation schedules and vaccines
- diseases for which routine immunisation is given
- criteria for giving immunisation
- client assessment
- consent procedures
- patient and family education
- community education
- storage and transport of vaccines
- the role of the nurse in immunisation
- recognising and managing anaphylaxis
- management of an immunisation clinic
- clinical practice
- standard precautions
- proper documentation following immunisation

## Assessment and certification

### Assessment Part One: Theory exam

There are two assessment components to this course. After the five weeks, students will sit for an open book multiple choice and short answer exam. Students must achieve a grade of 80% to pass the theory exam and move on to the clinical assessment.

### Assessment Part Two: Clinical competencies

The clinical assessment will be undertaken by the allocated Assessor and is based on the Competency Immunisation Standards. Clinical competence is an integral component of the program, and assessment tools are included in the package.

### Certification:

Upon successfully completing the course, students will be provided with an Immunisation competency certificate. To maintain the currency of the certificate, students will need to attend an immunisation update every 12 months. These updates are offered through Grace Vaughan House, GP Networks and some hospitals.

