

Standards for childhood vaccination

The following is a summary of the standards for childhood vaccination which were developed in 1994 by the National Immunisation Committee in consultation with the National Immunisation Education sub-committee which consisted of representatives from professional organisations.

These Standards are intended as a guide rather than a legalistic imposition on providers, and can provide the basis for quality assurance at all levels in the health system. As such they have been endorsed by the Australian Medical Association, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and the Australian College of Paediatrics, and have been welcomed by a variety of other professional bodies.

Standard 1	Vaccination services are readily available.
Standard 2	There are no barriers or prerequisites to vaccination services.
Standard 3	NHMRC-recommended childhood vaccines are offered free, without cost to parent or guardian.
Standard 4	Vaccination providers utilise all clinical encounters to assess vaccination status and, when indicated, vaccinate children.
Standard 5	Providers educate parent/caregivers about vaccination.
Standard 6	Providers question parent/caregivers about contraindications and, before vaccinating a child, inform them in specific terms about the benefits and risks of the vaccines their child is about to receive.
Standard 7	Providers withhold vaccination only for true contraindications.
Standard 8	Providers offer and administer, where possible, all vaccines for which a child is due at the one visit.
Standard 9	Providers use accurate and complete recording procedures.
Standard 10	Providers report adverse events following immunisation promptly, accurately and completely as set out in Part 1.6, 'Adverse events following immunisation (AEFI)' in the Australian Immunisation Handbook.
Standard 11	Providers adhere to appropriate procedures for vaccine cold-chain management.
Standard 12	Vaccination providers maintain current and easily retrievable vaccination guidelines at all locations where vaccines are administered.
Standard 13	Vaccines are administered by properly trained individuals who receive ongoing education and training on current vaccination recommendations.

Source: Australian Immunisation Handbook 8th Edition p.297