



## **Immunisation Training Guidance:** **Frequently Asked Questions (Aug 2024)**

This document has been developed to support general practice clinical teams in Suffolk & North East Essex. The document sets out a recommended minimum framework for training to meet the needs of all Registered Healthcare Practitioners and Healthcare Support Workers with a role and scope of practice in immunisation. It follows the current National Immunisation Training Standards. We highly recommend that you read these documents: [Registered Healthcare Practitioners](#) <sup>1</sup> and [Healthcare Support Workers](#). <sup>2</sup>

NHS England East of England: [Vaccine programme resources](#) includes details of key regional contacts

### **Registered Healthcare Practitioners:**

**Q: What immunisation training do I need to undertake if I am a Registered Healthcare Practitioner?**

The National Immunisation Training Standards document states that 'Any registered healthcare practitioner who advises on and/or administers immunisations must have received specific relevant introduction (foundation) training and assessed to be competent by a registered practitioner who is experienced, up to date and competent in immunisations. They should only administer or advise on immunisations if they feel competent to do so'. <sup>1, pg10</sup>

Those new to immunisation should receive comprehensive introduction (foundation) immunisation training, either through a face-to-face taught course or a blended approach of both e-learning and a face-to-face taught course. <sup>1, pg10</sup>

Introduction courses are available on the [SNEE Training Hub Website](#) (Please ensure you complete the introduction training course suitable for your role).

E-learning modules are accessible via [eLfH immunisation modules](#)

**Q: Once I have completed the introduction course what supervision will I need?**

New immunisers should have a period of supervised practice and support with a registered healthcare practitioner who is experienced, up to date and competent in immunisation.

**Q: As part of the introduction training what competencies do I need to achieve?**

Both knowledge and clinical competence should be assessed before new immunisers start to give and/or advise about vaccines. There is a competency assessment tool provided within the National

**Q: There are no introduction courses available, and my practice would like me to immunise as soon as possible, what do I do?**

You can undertake and complete the e-Learning for Health modules, supervised practice and competency assessment and then begin immunising whilst waiting for a place on an introduction training course to consolidate your learning.

**Q: How do I keep my clinical skills and competency up to date?**

Details of update training are available via the [SNEE Training Hub website](#) or via [e-Learning for Health](#) which is updated annually. NHSE EoE also provide immuniser updates throughout the year, details of which can be found [here](#)

There is a competency assessment tool provided within the National Immunisation Training Standards for [Registered Healthcare Practitioners](#) <sup>1, pg23</sup>

All those with a role in immunisation should have access to the online Immunisation against Infectious Disease (the 'Green Book') and all updates / letters of national vaccination policy.

**Q: What happens if a HCSW or Assistant Practitioner becomes a registered nursing associate or a registered nurse?**

You may continue to administer under PSD the same immunisations you did as a non-registrant.

In order to increase your scope of practice (to include the full national immunisation schedule) you will need to undertake the 2 day introduction training course for registered practitioners and complete the relevant competencies. (Currently as a registered nursing associate you should continue to immunise under a PSD.)

**Q: My role includes travel vaccinations, what training do I need to undertake?**

You need to complete the introduction (foundation) immunisation training & competency assessment before undertaking separate introduction to travel health training (details are available via the SNEE Training Hub Website).

## Healthcare Support Workers:

**Q: I am a Healthcare Support Worker (HCSW), are there any pre-course requirements?**

Yes. It is recommended you should have achieved education and training to Level 3 and have at least 2 years' experience as a HCSW before being considered for training in vaccine administration.<sup>2, pg6</sup>

**Q: What training do I need to undertake if I am a HCSW/Assistant Practitioner before I can give vaccinations?**

You will need to undertake a 2 day introduction (foundation) training course.

Introduction courses are available on the [SNEE Training Hub Website](#) (Please ensure you complete the introduction training course suitable for your role).

### Q: Once I have completed the introduction course what supervision will I need?

You must have an identified supervisor and supervision from this person must be ongoing. The supervisor must be a registered, appropriately trained, experienced and knowledgeable practitioner in immunisation.

### Q: As part of the introduction training what competencies do I need to achieve?

A competency checklist should be completed and is available in the following document:

[RCN Immunisation Knowledge and Skills Competence Assessment Tool](#) <sup>3</sup>, pg21-27

### Q: There are no introduction courses available, and my practice would like me to immunise as soon as possible, what do I do?

As a non-registered healthcare professional, you are required to undertake a 2 day introduction training course and cannot immunise until a course is completed and competency achieved.

### Q: How do I keep my clinical skills and competency up to date?

Details of update training for non-registered professionals are available via the [SNEE Training Hub](#) website.

All those with a role in immunisation should have access to the online Immunisation against Infectious Disease (the 'Green Book') and all updates / letters of national vaccination policy.

## The Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Immunisation Programme:

### Q: Who can administer the RSV vaccine and what is the training requirement?

Currently any registered healthcare practitioner who has completed their foundation training, competency assessment and *who can immunise under a PGD* is able to administer the RSV vaccine. There is an e-Learning for Health RSV module available.

### Q: Can a HCSW administer the RSV vaccine?

No. It is currently advised that a HCSW should not be giving this vaccine.

## References:

1. [National Minimum Standards and Core Curriculum for Immunisation Training for Registered Healthcare Practitioners. 02:2018](#)
2. [National Minimum Standards and Core Curriculum for Immunisation Training for Healthcare Support Workers. 09:2015](#)
3. [Immunisation Knowledge and Skills Competence Assessment Tool, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. 02:2022](#)
4. [Immunisation against infectious disease - GOV.UK](#)