

IMMUNISATION CERTIFICATION COURSE

2010-2011

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Why do the Immunisation Certification Course?

- The Immunisation Certification Course is a great way of updating and reviewing immunisation knowledge and skills.
- As a professional development opportunity, the course will offer you current guidelines and protocols on all aspects of immunisation delivery.
- Using best practice to ensure nurses are providing safe, evidence based and up to date service, with optimal health outcomes for patients and clients.

2. How do I go about doing the course?

- Enquiries for the course can be made through:
 - If in General Practice, your Divisional Immunisation Program Officer (DIPO)
 - If in other private health setting, contact WA General Practice Network for information.
- Send your completed registration form and your \$100 cheque made payable to "Department of Health" to WA General Practice Network.

3. What is the difference between the Immunisation Certification course and the "Theory Only" Immunisation Certification Course?

- To complete the Immunisation Certification Course applicants must be a Registered or Enrolled Nurse currently registered with the Australian Health Practitioners Register (AHPR) www.aprh.com.au, to work within Western Australia.
- To complete the "Theory Only" Immunisation Certification Course, the applicants must be a health care profession employee and will not be required to complete the clinical assessment.

4. Can I have an extension on the 5 week course?

- There is no facility for any 'extensions' or delays in completing the course within set timeframe (5 modules over a maximum of 5 weeks plus 2 assessments completed within 2 weeks following the modules completion).
- This course is no different to any external learning commitment; the 5 week timeframe needs to be adhered to. It is important to plan in your study commitments around other competing personal commitments.
- If you have any problems with this timeframe it is important to discuss this with your course supervisor.

5. Once I receive the course pack, what do I do?

- The pack has all the information you require.
- Take time to read through all the support material.
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- Contact your your DIPO (if working in General Practice) to inform them you are doing the course.
- You have up to 5 weeks to complete the course, so take the time to work out a study plan and speak to your supervisor if you have any problems.
- Book a time for your written exam with your supervisor.
- Book a time for your clinical assessment with your supervisor.

6. How can I get help with my studies?

- Help is only a phone call or an email away.
- Your supervisor is always your first point of call.
- Your Divisional Immunisation Program Officer is also available to support you or to refer you to someone who can.

7. How / when do I do my theory exam?

- The written exam can be done at completion of your five modules.
- Book a time with your supervisor that suits you both. The exam can be sent to your nominated venue/time/date, or a meeting place can be arranged with your supervisor.
- It takes approximately 1 hour and is an open book exam.
- Theory pass mark is 80%, and a pass is the prerequisite to completing the clinical competency assessment.
- You can utilize your course resources to assist you to complete the exam questions, but your supervisor will be unable to assist you during the exam.
- The written exam is made up of multiple choice and short answer questions.

8. Once I pass the theory exam how do I go about doing the clinical assessment?

- The clinical assessment can be done at a meeting place and at a time that suits you and your supervisor/ delegated course assessor.

9. How do I get my Immunisation Certificate?

Once you have completed all course requirements in the time required, your paperwork will be submitted to the Health Dept for certification and recording.

10. Once Certificated, will I need to attend immunisation updates?

- Yes, immunisation updates are promoted annually through the Health Department and through your local General Practice Network.
- You are required to attend one of these updates annually to attain immunisation competency standards.

How do I become a supervisor and support other nurses within my practice?

- Once you have completed the course (and passed), you can contact your DIPO to let them know you are keen to provide peer support for fellow Practice Nurses within your practice as a Supervisor.
- There is a small amount of formal paperwork to complete, and is part of the course accreditation standards. A formal record can be maintained by the Communicable Disease Control Directorate – Department of Health.
- It doesn't take much of your time, but allows other nurses to speak to someone "in the field", with current experience to guide them in the right direction in their studies.
- Note: there is no payment or financial remuneration for being a supervisor, it is all about peer support – nurses supporting nurses.

