

9/13/2017

## **BOARD ENCOURAGES PHARMACISTS TO VACCINATE PATIENTS**

### **AMID HEPATITIS A OUTBREAK**

The [California State Board of Pharmacy](#) encourages qualified pharmacists to offer vaccinations to patients to help stop a major hepatitis A outbreak in San Diego County.

As of Sept. 12, San Diego County has reported more than 400 cases of hepatitis A, including 16 deaths and almost 300 hospitalizations. [Information about the outbreak](#) is available online from the county's Public Health Services Division.

Last year, the board adopted a regulation allowing pharmacists who have received specific training and education to initiate or administer vaccinations. Pharmacists who immunize must notify health care providers about the immunizations, retain records of each vaccine administered, and report the administration of any vaccine to an immunization registry within 14 days.

The regulation – Title 16, California Code of Regulations [section 1746.4](#) – and additional [information about vaccinations](#) for pharmacists is posted on the board's website.

California Business and Professions Code [section 4052.8](#) authorizes pharmacists to initiate and administer vaccines listed on the routine immunization schedules recommended by the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and published by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The ACIP-approved immunization schedule can be viewed [here](#) and is available for downloading at the CDC [website](#).

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