

**BOARD ANNOUNCES NEW REGULATION  
FOR PHARMACISTS TO INITIATE OR ADMINISTER VACCINES**

The California State Board of Pharmacy announces a new regulation that allows pharmacists to initiate or administer vaccines.

For years, California pharmacists have been authorized to provide vaccines to patients under written protocols developed with a prescriber. The new regulation allows pharmacists with specified training to provide vaccines on their own authority.

The regulation requires specific training and education, notification of health care providers about the immunizations, and document retention for pharmacists who administer vaccines. The regulation became effective August 25, 2016.

The full text of the new regulation – Title 16, California Code of Regulations, section 1746.4 – is available on the Board of Pharmacy website [here](#).

The new provisions include a requirement that pharmacists complete an immunization training program before initiating or administering a vaccine. A pharmacist also must complete one hour of continuing education focused on immunizations and vaccines every two years.

In addition, pharmacists must notify a patient’s primary care provider within 14 days of administering any vaccine; if the patient does not have a primary care provider or cannot provide contact information for a primary care provider, the pharmacist must advise the patient to consult an appropriate health care provider. The regulation also requires pharmacists to notify a pregnant patient’s prenatal care provider, if known, within 14 days of administering any vaccine.

Patients must receive a record of all vaccines administered by the pharmacist, and documentation of each vaccine administered must be maintained in records that are readily retrievable during the pharmacy’s normal operating hours. An example of an appropriate vaccine administration record is available on the Board of Pharmacy website [here](#).

In addition, the new regulation requires pharmacists to report the administration of any vaccine to an immunization registry within 14 days.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has created a [website](#) specifically for pharmacists seeking information on how to submit vaccination information to the [California Immunization Registry](#), also known as CAIR.

Note: Pharmacies – not pharmacists – will need to enroll in CAIR to submit vaccination information. For questions about CAIR, pharmacists can contact the CAIR Help Desk at 800-578-7889 or [CAIRHelpDesk@cdhp.ca.gov](mailto:CAIRHelpDesk@cdhp.ca.gov).

CDPH is also transitioning to a new registry system, CAIR2. The new system will be rolled out in three phases, depending on where pharmacies are located. By summer of 2017, CAIR2 is expected to consolidate immunization records from all regional registries throughout the state. Information about the CAIR2 transition timeline and training requirements is available [here](#).

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