

Pharmacists and nurses who administer immunizations to persons 19 years or older must enter the immunizations into the NYSIIS or CIR within 14 days of administration. Reporting to registries is only with the patient's consent. The official DOH notice regarding the NYSIIS/CIR reporting requirement is available online at:

http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/information_system/laws_and_regulations/docs/notification_letter.pdf

The annual Health Department survey of pharmacist-administered immunizations for 2014-2015 began in August. Reports are due by October 9, 2015. Survey information is reported through the Health Commerce System.

The new law requires pharmacies to post the full schedule of CDC recommended immunizations for adults in the pharmacy's patient privacy area. The Health Department recommends that pharmacies print the two-page "Easy-to-read" ACIP Immunization Schedule for Adults that is available online at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/easy-to-read/adult.html>

The new law directs pharmacists to administer immunizations "according to the most current recommendations by ACIP". This means that although the law allows non-patient-specific orders for Zoster, they apply only to individuals over the age of 60 to conform with ACIP. Persons younger than 60 may be given Zoster under patient-specific orders.

It is important to note that the new law made some additional changes. The vaccines that pharmacists are authorized to administer are listed as "immunizations to prevent influenza, pneumococcal, acute herpes zoster, meningococcal, tetanus, diphtheria or pertussis disease." The last three are authorized singly or in combination. It allows physicians or certified nurse practitioners with practice sites in the county or an adjoining county in which the immunization is administered to issue non-patient specific orders. The reference to an "adjoining county" removes the previous county restriction. Another change requires the pharmacist, prior to administering the immunization, to inform the patient of any cost or co-pay and also whether the immunization would be covered by insurance if administered by the primary care physician. If the adult patient does not grant permission to report the immunization to the registry, the pharmacist is required to report the immunization to the patient's primary care provider electronically or by facsimile.