Vaccine Update 452 – NCIRS co-administration guide

National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) co-administration guide for vaccination in adults

There are more vaccines available to adults than ever before. With this welcome news, NCIRS has developed a co-administration guide to assist immunisation providers ensure misadministration errors are avoided.

While most vaccines can be co-administered at the same National Immunisation Program (NIP) or WA Immunisation Schedule point, separate injection sites should be used where possible. If the same muscle is used to administer more than one vaccine, ensure a distance of 2.5 cm between injection sites.

The co-administration guide should be used in conjunction with the Australian Immunisation Handbook which provides detailed advice on vaccine dosage, administration, contraindications and precautions.

In accordance with the Immunisation Handbook, immunisation providers should:

- screen people before vaccination
- obtain valid consent
- ensure the correct equipment and procedures are in place.

Refer to the WA Immunisation Schedule for information about all funded and recommended vaccines for adults in Western Australia. All vaccines administered should be reported to the Australian Immunisation Register.

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