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Medication Protocols for Schools Immunisation Programme

Three Hour Programme for Registered Nurses and Registered Midwives

Category 1 Approved by the Nursing & Midwifery Board of Ireland (4 CEUs)

RATIONALE

Vaccines are among the most effective tools available for preventing infectious diseases, and their complications and sequelae (European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control 2017). Vaccination has resulted in a dramatic decline in morbidity and mortality from infectious diseases over the last century. However, low perceived risk of infection and increased concern about vaccines' safety led to vaccine hesitancy and a reduction in vaccine coverage, with increased risk of disease outbreaks (Pezzotti et al. 2018). Vaccine hesitancy refers to delay in acceptance or refusal of vaccination despite availability of vaccination services. Vaccine hesitancy is complex and context specific, varying across time, place and vaccines. Factors influencing vaccine hesitancy include complacency, convenience, and confidence (MacDonald, 2015).

Immunisation denotes the process of artificially inducing or providing immunity. In Ireland, the Schools Immunisation Programme is part of a national strategy to protect children from infectious diseases through vaccination and is delivered annually by the School Immunisation Teams of the Health Service Executive (HSE). Available evidence suggests that simultaneous administration of multiple vaccines as in the Irish schedule is not only safe and effective but can potentially increase uptake rates by up to 17% (HSE National Immunisation Office, 2018). Additionally, vaccinations, such as those against the HPV, have been subject to unsubstantiated claims about their safety, despite all scientific evidence disproving such claims (European Medicines Agency, 2015).

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

Acknowledging that course participants bring a wealth of experience and knowledge from their work, family and prior education, but often report feeling apprehensive about the academic environment (Bankert & Kozel, 2005), we in the Regional Centre of Nursing & Midwifery Education endeavour to adopt student centred teaching strategies which encourage reflection, dialogue and debate. We believe that the teaching and learning process should be a stimulating experience and we commit to an andragogical approach which, according to Quinn (2007), encourages a pro-active approach to learning in which enquiry and autonomy feature predominantly.

AIM

The aim of this three hour programme is to facilitate registered nurse/midwife vaccinators, employed by the HSE, to develop the requisite knowledge and skills to safely administer immunisations, under medication protocols, through the schools immunisation programme.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

On completion of this three hour programme, participants should be able to:

- Critically analyse the professional and legal responsibilities of registered nurses/midwives in administering vaccines to children, under medication protocols, in primary and/or second level schools or equivalent, through the immunisation programme.
- Demonstrate detailed knowledge and understanding of the following medication protocols:

- IVP Boostrix;
 - Tdap Boostrix;
 - MMR vaxPro;
 - MMR Priorix;
 - Gardasil;
 - Menjugate.
- Demonstrate relevant knowledge and understanding of the vaccination process, to participate in the schools immunisation programme
 - Appraise their own practice and take measures to develop and maintain their competence in the administration of vaccinations

INDICIATIVE CONTENT

Professional & Legal Issues

Current issues & Communication; Roles & Responsibilities; Scope of Nursing & Midwifery Practice Framework; Code of Conduct and Ethics; Accountability; Informed Consent; Decision Making; Communicating in Plain English; Confidentiality; Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children; Competence; Accountability; Delegation; Documentation; Recording Clinical Practice Guidance; Local Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines; Guidance to Nurses and Midwives on Medication Management; Medication Protocols; Healthcare Risk Management and Patient Safety; Open Disclosure; Data Protection; Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland; Values for Nursing and Midwifery in Ireland; Data Protection; Freedom of Information; Nurses and Midwives Act.

Medication Vaccination Protocols

Definition; Medication Protocol Framework; Vaccines; School Immunisation Schedule and Target Cohort; Information for Child/Parent/Guardian

Vaccination Process

Five rights of medication management; Resources and equipment; Assessment of the student; Preparing the vaccines; Vaccine administration; Standard precautions; Storage; Maintenance of the cold chain; Adverse event following immunisation; Documentation and monitoring;

TEACHING & LEARNING STRATEGIES

A variety of teaching and learning strategies will be utilised to maximise participant involvement and draw on their experiences. These include modified lecture, demonstration and simulation.

PROGRAMME DURATION

The duration of this programme is 3 hours commencing at 14.00 and finishing at 17.00.

APPLICATION CRITERIA

Registered Nurses/Midwives actively registered with the Nursing & Midwifery Board of Ireland and working on HSE School Immunisations Teams who have:

RECOMMENDED:

- Management of Anaphylaxis;
- Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers (within the last two years);
- Medication Management for Registered Nurses/Midwives or completed Medicines Management e-learning programme on www.hseland.ie

ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING

Participants are expected to undertake self assessment of competency in clinical practice, using a structured framework.

PROGRAMME EVALUATION

- Participants will be required to complete a written evaluation of the programme, the findings of which will be used to inform ongoing quality development of the programme.
- Annual programme review is conducted involving those who contributed to the delivery of the programme and incorporating feedback from programme participants.
- Feedback is sought from the Directors of Nursing, through the RCNME Management Steering Committee, regarding the outcome of the programme in terms of meeting service need.

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE

A certificate of attendance will be presented to nurses who attend the three hour programme.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Names of programme applicants must be submitted by line managers, by e-mail only (or in writing if no access to e-mail), to secretary.cne@hse.ie

The following information must be included:

- Programme title & date/s;
- Full name & position of nominated programme applicant;
- Details of work location;
- Line manager making booking;
- Line manager's work location & contact number.

Reference List

Bankert E. & Kozel, V. (2005) Transforming pedagogy in nursing education: A caring learning environment for adult students. *Nursing Education Perspectives* 26(4), 227-229.

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (2017) *Vaccine-preventable diseases and immunisation – core competencies*. Stockholm, ECDC.

HSE National Immunisation Office (2018) *Guidelines for Vaccinations in General Practice*. Dublin, HSE.

Institute of Medicine, Board on Population Health and Public Health Practice (2013) *Childhood Immunization Schedule and Safety: Stakeholder Concerns, Scientific Evidence, and Future Studies*. Washington, DC; National Academies Press.

MacDonald, N. E. (2015) Vaccine hesitancy: Definition, scope and determinants. *Vaccine* 33(34):4161-4164.

Pezzotti, P., Bellino, S., Prestinaci, F., Iacchini, S., Lucaroni .F, Camoni, L., Barbieri, M. M., Ricciardi, W., Stefanelli, P. & Rezza, G.(2018) The impact of immunization programs on 10 vaccine preventable diseases in Italy: 1900-2015. *Vaccine* 36(11):1435-1443

Quinn F. (2007) Quinn's Principles and Practice of Nurse Education, 5th Edition, Nelson Thorne: London.