



™
The Royal
Children's
Hospital
Melbourne



An update on Immunisation Nurse Practitioners in Australia

Sonja Elia, NP and Manager RCH

26 April 2019



What is a Nurse Practitioner?

- A Registered Nurse experienced in their clinical specialty, educated at Masters level, who is endorsed by the Nurses and Midwives Board of Australia (NMBA) trained to assess patient needs, order and interpret diagnostic and laboratory tests, diagnose illness and disease, prescribe medication and formulate treatment plans.



Background

- Sept 1994 - NP Pilot projects commenced
- May 2001 - first NP's authorised in Aust (rural & remote, ED)
- Dec 2004 – first NP's authorised in Victoria
- Mar 2013 – ED NP project announced



As of December 2018

Table 5.1 Registered Nurse and Midwife – Endorsements by principal place of practice

Profession	Endorsement	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	No PPP	Total
	Nurse Practitioner	45	410	28	461	143	42	379	248	28	1,784



Background

- Nurse Practitioner is a protected title by law, not to be used by anyone not endorsed as an NP by the NMBA
- Completion of an NMBA approved program of study leading to endorsement as a Nurse Practitioner
- Equivalence of three years (5,000 hours) full time experience of Advanced Nursing practice in the past 6 years
- (Advanced Nursing practice incorporates leadership, education and research into clinical based practice).

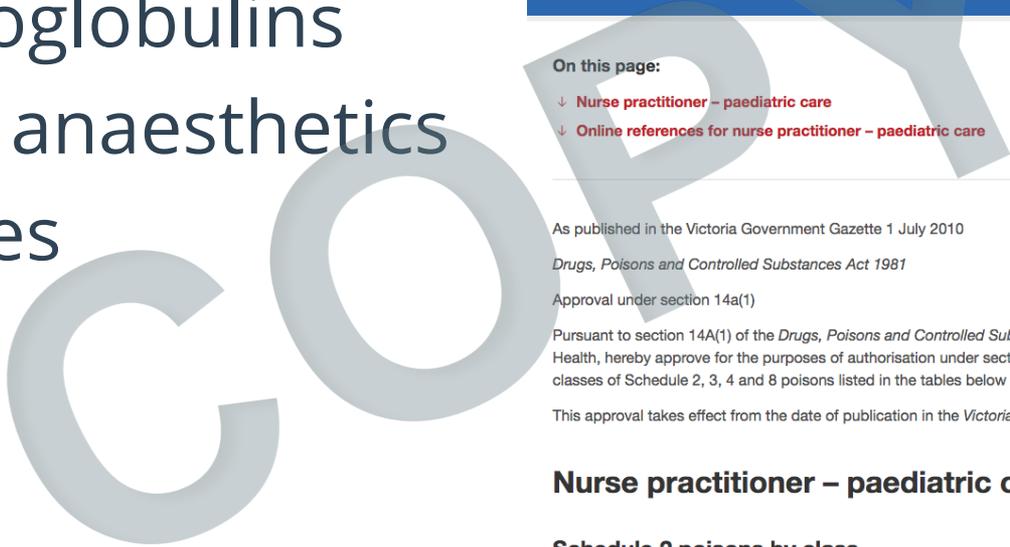


Background

- Eight NP category notations (Victoria)
 - Acute and supportive care
 - Care of the older person or Aged care
 - Critical care
 - Maternity care
 - Mental Health care
 - Paediatric care
 - Perioperative care
 - Primary care



- Vaccines
- Antihistamines
- Immunoglobulins
- Inhaled anaesthetics
- Sedatives



Nurse practitioners in paediatric care – scheduled drugs

Key messages

- ☰ The category 'nurse practitioners – paediatric care' has ministerial approval to prescribe certain scheduled drugs.
- ☰ Also see 'Minister-approved prescriber lists' for information about the approvals.

On this page:

- ↓ [Nurse practitioner – paediatric care](#)
- ↓ [Online references for nurse practitioner – paediatric care](#)

As published in the Victoria Government Gazette 1 July 2010

Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981

Approval under section 14a(1)

Pursuant to section 14A(1) of the *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981* ('the Act'), I, Daniel Andrews, Minister for Health, hereby approve for the purposes of authorisation under section 13(1)(ba) of the Act the Schedule 2, 3, 4 and 8 poisons or classes of Schedule 2, 3, 4 and 8 poisons listed in the tables below in relation to the category of Nurse Practitioner – Paediatric Care.

This approval takes effect from the date of publication in the *Victoria Government Gazette*.

Nurse practitioner – paediatric care

Schedule 2 poisons by class

Reference	Class of poison
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Background

- Worked full time in Immunisation Service since 2005
- Completed Masters of Advanced Practice Nursing (The University of Melbourne) in 2008
- Over 20 conference presentations (National and International)
- 13 publications in medical and nursing journals



NEWLY ENDORSED NURSE PRACTITIONER BOOSTS EXPERT IMMUNISATION SERVICE

A Victorian nurse has become just the third nurse in Australia to attain endorsement as a nurse practitioner (NP) in the field of immunisation.

Recently endorsed NP Sonja Elia has worked at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne for more than two decades, spending much of her time as part of its dedicated immunisation team.

"Essentially it's a drop-in centre," Sonja explained.

"So families attend the immunisation clinic and are opportunistically immunised while they're either in hospital for an appointment or they're a sibling of a patient or anyone who just visits the hospital."

Sonja leads a team of around eight staff at the service, which also offers a telephone advice line to GPs, parents and the community seeking information on immunisation or the latest vaccines.

A few years ago, Sonja decided to extend her scope of practice by pursuing a master's degree in advanced practice nursing in order to qualify as an NP and be able to prescribe vaccines without the

reliance on doctors.

One recent example involved Meningococcal B, a highly sought after vaccine, where nurses at the unit were forced to refer families back to their GPs in order to obtain a script. "I could really see a deficit in what we were doing in our day-to-day work," Sonja recalled.

"It just seemed like I could take them [patients] so far and then have to hand them over to my medical colleagues."

With her new autonomy, Sonja can now offer special risk vaccines to patients including Meningococcal ACYW, Hepatitis A and Meningococcal B.

She claims to have already seen a significant uptake in immunisation rates for Meningococcal B since her commencement as an NP and believes the streamlining will progressively lead to better outcomes and care.

"We are the experts. We are the immunisation service at the Royal Children's Hospital. GPs call on us for advice and expertise and now we can really close the loop and make sure that kids will get the vaccine and get protected against the disease more timely."

As a nurse working in immunisation, Sonja said the constantly changing vaccine schedule creates continual challenges yet also offers nurses the chance to utilise their gamut of skills in educating families, sharing knowledge and making accurate clinical decisions.

Sonja suggested the rise in new diseases, for example, Meningococcal W, illustrated why a specialist immunisation service is crucial. "Immunisation concerns have always been the same, they haven't really changed, and the rate of non-immunisers has always stayed the same, around 3%. But what we are seeing is the schedule's become a little bit more complicated. We've introduced more new vaccines that have all these different rules and regulations around how we give them."



"WE ARE THE EXPERTS. WE ARE THE IMMUNISATION SERVICE AT THE ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL. GPs CALL ON US FOR ADVICE AND EXPERTISE AND NOW WE CAN REALLY CLOSE THE LOOP AND MAKE SURE THAT KIDS WILL GET THE VACCINE AND GET PROTECTED AGAINST THE DISEASE MORE TIMELY."



Objectives

- Increase timeliness of administration of immunisations
- Improve clinical decision making with regards to vaccination through appropriate ordering and reporting serology testing
- Promote components of the Immunisation NP model to other agencies

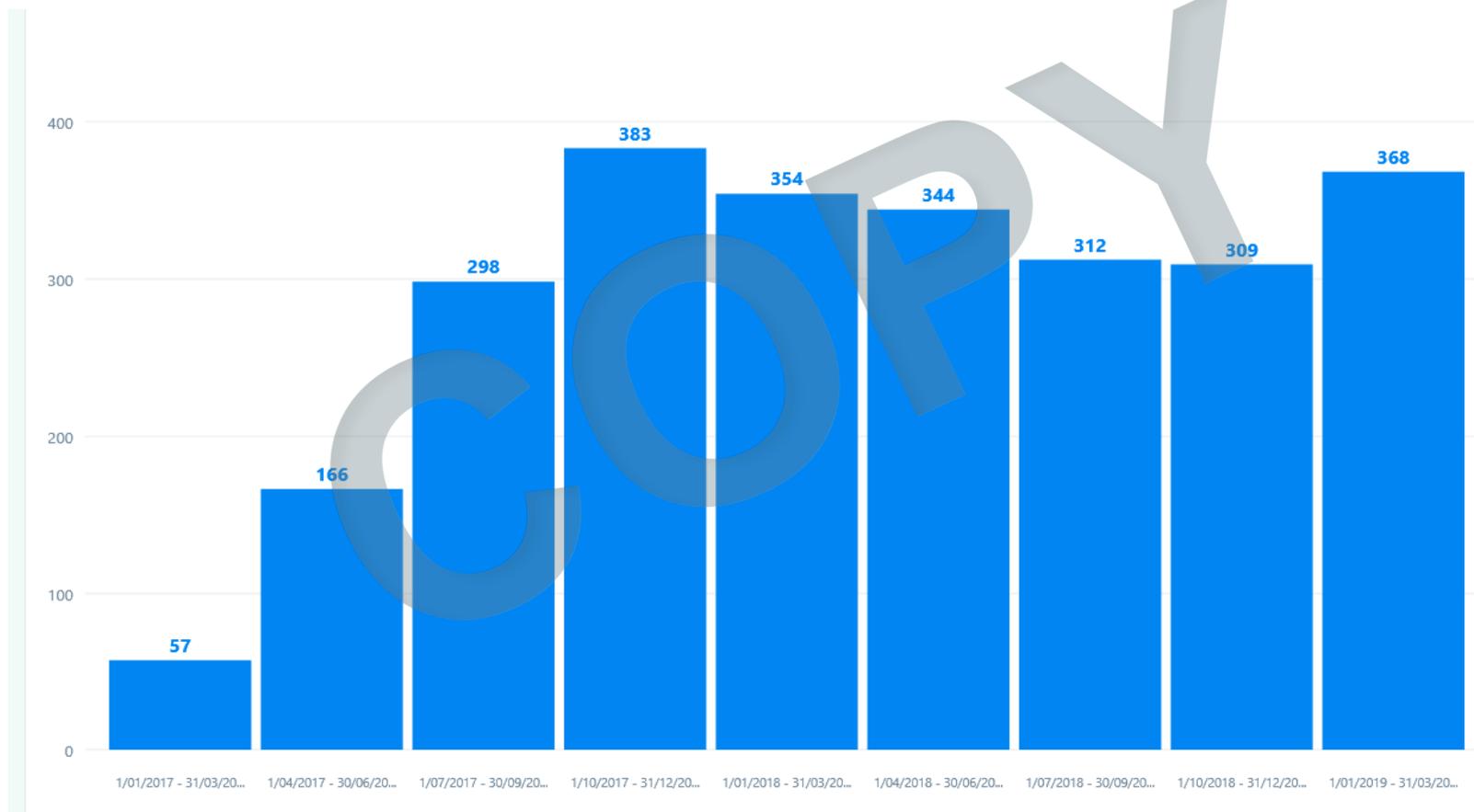


Gaps in service delivery

- Vaccine hesitant families
- Special risk patients – orders, serology
- Non scheduled vaccines i.e. Men B



Non scheduled vaccines – Men B





Special risk patients

None

Chart Review

SnapShot Encounters Notes Labs Imaging Procedures-Other Ix Other Orders Meds LDAs Letters Referrals Media Episodes Theatres and Anaesthesia

Refresh (2:35 PM) Route Review Selected Preview Lab Flowsheet OnBase

Filters Hide Cancelled Blood Bank Micro Path/Cyto w/Results MMR serology serology

Atta: Resr Date	Description	Status	Type	Auth Provider	Ordered by	Encounter Date	Released to Portal	Viewed on Portal
20/07/2017 09:23	Amino Acids	Active	Lab	Boneh, Avihu, Consultant	Shau-Lotan, Nava, Junior M...	20/07/2017	N	N
19/07/2017 11:57	Varicella Zoster Antibodies (Add on)	Completed - Final result	Microbiology	Epic Unknown Provider, Med...	Interface, Lab Results In	14/07/2017	N	N
19/07/2017 11:57	Rubella Antibodies (Add on)	Completed - Final result	Microbiology	Epic Unknown Provider, Med...	Interface, Lab Results In	14/07/2017	N	N
19/07/2017 11:57	Mumps Antibodies (Add on)	Completed - Final result	Microbiology	Epic Unknown Provider, Med...	Interface, Lab Results In	14/07/2017	N	N
19/07/2017 11:57	Measles Antibodies (Add on)	Completed - Final result	Microbiology	Epic Unknown Provider, Med...	Interface, Lab Results In	14/07/2017	N	N
19/07/2017 11:57	Hepatitis B Serology (Add on)	Completed - Final result	Microbiology	Epic Unknown Provider, Med...	Interface, Lab Results In	14/07/2017	N	N



Special risk patients

Pre-Solid Organ Transplant Recipients (SOTR) immunisation guidelines to 18 years (July 2018)

- At diagnosis and/or consideration of transplant- it is recommended that the **full primary schedule with additional vaccines** be completed as early as possible
- Ideally administer vaccines a minimum of 4 weeks before SOT, to maximise the serum immune response
- **Once transplanted, live attenuated vaccines MUST NOT be given**

Age	Routine Immunisation schedule	Additional vaccines	Additional comments/references	Glossary
Birth	Hep B (paediatric)		-Complete within 7 days, no need for catch up if dose missed	ActHIB * haemophilus influenzae type B
6-8 weeks	Infanrix Hexa Prevenar 13 Rotarix [€]		-Can be given from 6 weeks of age - http://www.mvec.vic.edu.au/immunisation-references/rotavirus/ -Bexsero and Menveo licensed from 2 months of age [§]	Boostrix * diphtheria * tetanus * pertussis Gardasil9 *human papillomavirus
4 month	Infanrix Hexa Prevenar 13 Rotarix [€]			Hepatitis B *adult dose or paediatric dose
6 month	Infanrix Hexa	Influenza vaccine (recommended annually) Prevenar 13	-Before having 6 month vaccines must be ≥24 weeks of age and ≥8 weeks post 4/12 immunisations -Additional Prevenar 13 @ 6-months or diagnosis/consideration of transplant (0-18 years) - http://www.mvec.vic.edu.au/immunisation-references/influenza-vaccine-recommendations/	Infanrix Hexa * diphtheria * tetanus * pertussis * polio * haemophilus influenzae type B * hepatitis B (paed)
Additional timepoint [9 months]			-Can consider commencing Priorix/MMR II and Varilrix/Varivax, 2 dose schedule, 4 weeks apart, if transplant is imminent [§]	Infanrix IPV/Quadracel * diphtheria * tetanus * pertussis * polio
12 month	Priorix [€] /MMR II [€] Nimenrix Prevenar 13	Varilrix [€] / Varivax [€] Vaqta [§] Bexsero [§]	-Vaqta can be commenced from 12 months of age (2-doses 6-months apart) -Additional Prevenar 13 @ 12-months or diagnosis/consideration of transplant (0-18 years) -Bexsero can be commenced (2 doses, 2 months apart)	Menveo/Nimenrix/Menactra * 4-valent meningococcal conjugate ACWY Pneumovax 23 *23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide Prevenar 13



Needle phobic patients



"I CAN'T GO IN THERE - YOU KNOW I'M TERRIFIED OF NEEDLES!"



Needle phobic patients

Needle phobia

Pain and anxiety associated with vaccine administration can be a source of distress for children and their families. There are a range of techniques that can be used to reduce this pain and anxiety, such as effective preparation, distraction techniques and pain management strategies. When these strategies are unsuccessful, the Immunisation Drop-in centre can offer a unique 'Immunisation under sedation' service. To find out more, please contact the Immunisation service on 1300 882 924 (Option 2) and bookings are essential.





Needle phobic patients

“Sophie has a severe phobia of needles. She attempted to have her year seven immunisations at four different places before coming to the Royal Children’s Hospital to have them under sedation. I truly believe that if she couldn’t of had this service she would never have had her immunisations because she was so scared and no one was able to calm her enough to even get close to her with a needle. The staff were fantastic in calming her and explaining about the ‘laughing gas’- she was relaxed and finally able to remain still for the injections. Tears of relief from me and then off to breakfast and a celebration!

It was such a relief for her and myself”



Immunisation Nurse

Practitioners

- Leanne Phillips NP – Specialist Immunisation clinic, QLD Children’s Hospital
- Madeline Hall NP – Workforce Screening and Vaccination service, QLD Health
- Catherine Keil NP – Travel Health and Immunisations, Angaston Medical SA



Transforming healthcare

About Catherine Keil



I have been working in the field of immunisations for over 18 years. My background started in emergency nursing working alongside Nurse Practitioners in the UK. From there I became a practice nurse in London where I became involved in travel health. My career then took me to Dubai for 10 years: Emirates Airline involved in setting up their travel health for crew and families. In 2013 I moved with my family to South Australia. I completed my Masters in Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) in 2017 and became an endorsed Nurse Practitioner in early 2018. Since then I have started my own business Travel Health Practitioner Pty Ltd working as a contractor running a travel health business. I am also on the steering committee of the Nurse Professional Group for the International Society of Travel Medicine (ISTM) and write regular travel health articles for the Barossa Herald. I am a passionate and dedicated Nurse Practitioner.

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SONJA ELIA - IMMUNISATION NP



Born and bred in Melbourne, Sonja has been based at a major metropolitan hospital in Melbourne for over 20 years and has worked in immunisation for 14 years.

After graduating as a nurse practitioner in May 2017, Sonja has been working with her patients and doctors, prescribing the necessary immunisations for pre-natal and post-natal care and working closely with the nursing and medical team.

As the first immunisation-specific nurse practitioner in Victoria, Sonja is dedicated to her profession and is proud of the inroads her team are making to offer immunisation services to special risk kids for scheduled and non-scheduled vaccines such as Meningococcal B. When she's not working as an immunisation NP, Sonja loves

spending time with her two teenage boys.

Sonja's eldest boy is passionate about IT and hopes to explore the digital world as a career when he graduates high school at the end of this year, and her youngest son is in grade 8 and aspires to be a professional tennis player.

Which area are you working in as a nurse practitioner?

As the first registered NP in immunisations in my hospital, I paved the way for my team and I am proud to say there are now others in our team that are studying to become nurse practitioners in the near future. I love what I do and I am so proud to prove the merits of the nurse practitioner role and show the benefits of the qualification to my patients and colleagues on a daily basis.



Future.....

- Nurse practitioner candidates...Nadine Henare (RCH), Karen Bellamy (Monash Health)
- Evolving scope of practice





Acknowledgements

- Immunisation Service Medical staff
- Immunisation Service Nursing, Admin and Pharmacist team
- Dr Fiona Newall, Bernadette Twomey, Danielle Smith



Questions

