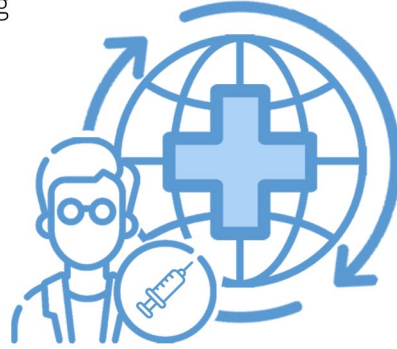


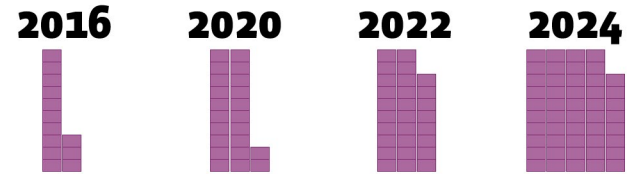
VACCINE ADMINISTRATION AND PRESCRIBING BY PHARMACISTS: SCOPE OF SERVICES, TRAINING AND IMPACT

This infographic examines the role of pharmacists in delivering vaccinations. It provides insights into the scope of their practice, required training, and the overall impact of pharmacist-led vaccination efforts, highlighting successful models from seven countries: **Australia, Canada, France, Ireland, Portugal, UK, and USA.**








Pharmacists are transforming global health through vaccination services. Their accessibility makes them essential healthcare professionals in expanding vaccination access, overcoming vaccine hesitancy and improving public health outcomes.^{1,2}



According to FIP data: As of 2024, pharmacists in 44 countries are authorised to administer vaccines, marking a significant increase from 13 countries in 2016.^{3,4}










SCOPE OF PHARMACY-BASED VACCINATION^{3,4}

Country	Administration by pharmacists	Administration by pharmacy technicians	Administration by other healthcare professionals in pharmacies	Pharmacists access to vaccination records
 Australia	✓	✗	✓	Full access
 Canada	✓	✓	✓	Partial access
 France	✓	✓*	✗	Partial access
 Ireland	✓	✗	✗	Partial access
 Portugal	✓	✗	✓	Partial access
 UK	✓	✓	✓	Partial access
 USA	✓	✓	✓	Partial access

* Not all vaccines can be administered by technicians



SELECTED VACCINES THAT CAN BE PRESCRIBED BY PHARMACISTS^{3,4}

	 *	 *					 *
Influenza	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
COVID-19	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pneumococcal (PCV)	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
RSV	✓	✓				✓	✓



SELECTED VACCINES THAT CAN BE ADMINISTERED BY PHARMACISTS ^{3,4}

							
Influenza	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
COVID-19	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hepatitis B	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
HPV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Meningococcal	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Pneumococcal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
RSV	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Shingles	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tdap booster	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓

SUBNATIONAL VARIATION

*In some countries, the vaccines that pharmacists are authorised to administer or prescribe may vary by region or jurisdiction. For instance, while pharmacists in Canada, Australia, and USA are generally authorised to administer/prescribe a broad range of vaccines, the specific vaccines approved can differ depending on local regulations or provincial/state laws.

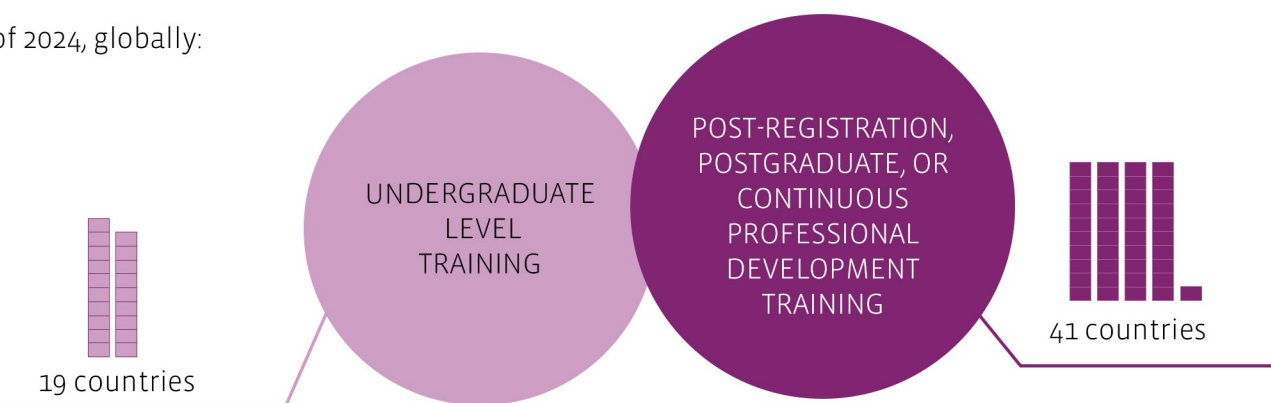
For the full list of vaccines that pharmacists are authorised to administer in each country and region, please check the FIP report "[Leveraging pharmacy to deliver life-course vaccination: An FIP global intelligence report](#)" (April 2024, for FIP member organisations only)."

Additional country-specific updates can be found in ⁵⁻⁷:

- [ACT Legislation Register: Medicines, Poisons, and Therapeutic Goods \(Vaccinations by Pharmacists\) Direction 2024 \(No 1\)](#)
- [Canadian Pharmacists Association Scope of Practice: 2023](#)
- [National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations \(NASPA\) 2024 Pharmacist Immunization Authority: 2024](#)

EDUCATION AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS: A SNAPSHOT:³

As of 2024, globally:





Canada: Pharmacists must undergo comprehensive **undergraduate and postgraduate** training, with **periodic certification renewals** required to ensure ongoing competency.³



Ireland: Pharmacists are required to complete **postgraduate training** in vaccine administration. This training includes both theoretical and practical components, and regular certification renewals are **mandatory** to ensure continued proficiency in vaccine administration and management of adverse reactions.³



USA: Pharmacists undergo both **undergraduate and postgraduate training**, with **no mandatory renewal** for certification. As per data provided by the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), currently more than 400,000 pharmacists, student pharmacists, and 100,000 pharmacy technicians are trained to administer vaccines.³



France: Pharmacists undergo **mandatory** training in vaccine administration at both **undergraduate and postgraduate** levels. This training, accredited by regulatory authorities, is delivered by professional organisations and universities. It includes two key modules: "Vaccine Prescribing" and "Vaccine Administration," enabling pharmacists to administer vaccines to individuals aged 11 years and older. There is **no requirement for certification renewal**.⁸



UK: Pharmacists undergo both **undergraduate and postgraduate** training, focusing on vaccine administration, patient consultation, and emergency response. Training adheres to the "National Minimum Standards and Core Curriculum for Immunisation Training for Registered Healthcare Practitioners." Certification must be **renewed annually** to ensure compliance with national standards and best practices.⁹



Portugal: Pharmacists **must complete postgraduate training** on vaccination and basic life support, certified by the Portuguese Pharmaceutical Society. Certification is **renewed every five years**, and pharmacists must demonstrate continued vaccination activity and complete refresher training.^{3,8,9} Over 6,000 pharmacists are currently certified, and more than 2,500 pharmacies offer vaccination services.⁹



Australia: Pharmacists are required to complete accredited courses approved by the Australian Pharmacy Council, including certifications in anaphylaxis management, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (renewed annually), and first aid (renewed every three years).⁵ The training is available at both the **undergraduate and postgraduate** levels, with **no certification renewals required**. For more information about the eligibility criteria for providing vaccination services in a pharmacy, click [here](#).

DOCUMENTED IMPACT OF PHARMACY-BASED VACCINATION

Australia



- Community pharmacists administered 50% of COVID-19 vaccinations in certain regions.⁸
- 24.4% of flu vaccines were given by pharmacists between March-May 2024, up from 15.7% in 2021.¹⁰
- Satisfaction rates for pharmacy-based vaccinations exceed 95%.¹¹

Canada



- The introduction of pharmacy-led flu vaccination services led to an increase in vaccine administration from 9,125 vaccines in the 2011/2012 season to almost 80,000 vaccines by the 2016/2017 season.¹³
- According to the Public Health Agency of Canada, pharmacies have become the primary location for influenza vaccination among adults over 18, with 34.2% of adults receiving their flu vaccine at a pharmacy, surpassing doctors' offices (2017/18).¹²
- One study found that 21% of high-risk individuals reported they would not have been vaccinated if the service were not available at community pharmacies.¹¹

France



- Over 26.3 million COVID-19 vaccines administered between January 2021-2023.⁸
- In January 2022, around 60% of COVID-19 vaccines were administered by pharmacists, compared with 25% by doctors and 15% by nurses. The satisfaction rate of the service in pharmacies was ranked at 4.92/5.00.⁹

Ireland



- Since 2011, pharmacists have been authorised to administer vaccines, resulting in a 50% increase in flu vaccination rates and the administration of over 750,000 COVID-19 vaccines.⁸
- Statistics show that 1 in 6 people vaccinated at community pharmacies had never received the vaccination before, and 99% indicated they would return for future vaccinations. 93% rated the service as 9/10 or 10/10 for satisfaction.⁹

Portugal



- Pharmacists were responsible for administering 70% of all flu and COVID-19 vaccines during the 2022/2023 season.¹³
- When pharmacists were permitted to administer influenza vaccines without a prescription, a 32% increase in flu vaccination uptake was observed.¹⁴

UK



- Over 5 million flu vaccinations were delivered by community pharmacies in 2022/23.¹⁵
- As of 22 March 2021, NHS England confirmed that over 1.7 million COVID-19 vaccines had been administered by community pharmacies. Additionally, in Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, community pharmacies played a key role in administering COVID-19 vaccines to patients.⁹

USA



- Between December 2020 – January 2023, pharmacists administered 300+ million COVID-19 vaccines, accounting for approximately 50% of all doses, and greatly expanding access to vaccinations, especially in rural areas.¹⁶⁻¹⁷

References

1. Poudel AL, E.; Deldot, M.; Campbell, C.; Waite, N.; Nissen, L. Pharmacist role in vaccination: Evidence and challenges. *Vaccine*. 2019. [Cited: 20 September 2024]. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2019.08.060>.
2. Isenor JE, N.; Alia, T.; Slayter, K.; Slayter, K.; MacDougall, D.; MacDougall, D.; Mcneil, S.; Mcneil, S.; Mcneil, S.; Bowles, S. Impact of pharmacists as immunizers on vaccination rates: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Vaccine*. 2016;34(47):5708-23. [Cited: 20 July 2024]. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2016.08.085>.
3. International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) Leveraging pharmacy to deliver life-course vaccination: An FIP Global intelligence report. The Hague: International Pharmaceutical Federation [Internet]. 2024. [Cited: 20 September 2024]. Available at: <https://www.fip.org/file/5851>.
4. International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) Pharmacy-based vaccination: Vaccination Surveillance Atlas: International Pharmaceutical Federation; 2024. Available at: https://bit.ly/FIP_PBV_Atlas.
5. ACT Parliamentary Counsel Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods (Vaccinations by Pharmacists) Direction 2024 (No 1). ACT Legislation Register; 2024.
6. Canadian Pharmacists Association Scope of Practice: 2023. Updated [accessed: 20 July 2024]. Available at: <https://www.pharmacists.ca/advocacy/scope-of-practice/>.
7. National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations (NASPA) 2024 Pharmacist Immunization Authority: 2024. Available at: <https://naspa.us/blog/resource/2024-pharmacist-immunization-authority/>.
8. International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) Pharmacy-based vaccination: Recent development, success stories and implementation strategies. The Hague: International Pharmaceutical Federation [Internet]. 2023. [Cited: 20 July 2024]. Available at: <https://www.fip.org/file/5704>.
9. Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union (PGEU). The role of community pharmacists in vaccination. [Internet]. 2023. [Cited: 27 March 2024]. Available at: <https://www.pgeu.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/The-role-of-community-pharmacists-in-vaccination-PGEU-Position-Paper.pdf>.
10. Australian Pharmacist 4 graphs that show how influenza vaccination is going this season: Australian Pharmacist 2024. updated [accessed: 25 July 2024]. Available at: <https://www.australianpharmacist.com.au/4-graphs-that-show-how-influenza-vaccination-is-going-this-season>.
11. Mastrovito B, Lardon A, Dubromel A, Nave V, Beny K, Dussart C. Understanding the gap between guidelines and influenza vaccination coverage in people with diabetes: a scoping review. *Front Public Health*. 2024;12:1360556. doi:10.3389/fpubh.2024.1360556
12. Gemmill IM. How pharmacists are improving immunization in Canada. *Canadian Pharmacists Journal / Revue des Pharmaciens du Canada*. 2019;152(6):390. [Cited: 18 September 2024]. Available at: doi: 10.1177/1715163519878404.
13. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control Seasonal influenza 2022–2023. In: ECDC. Annual Epidemiological Report for 2023. Stockholm: ECDC [Internet]. 2023. [Cited: 20 July 2024]. Available at: <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/seasonal-influenza-annual-epidemiological-report-20222023>.
14. Vaccines Today (2019). Pharmacy pilot project increases flu vaccination by 32%. Available at: <https://www.vaccinestoday.eu/stories/pharmacy-pilot-project-increases-flu-vaccination-by-32/>. Accessed August 2024.
15. Community Pharmacy England Flu Vaccination Statistics: 2024. Available at: <https://cpe.org.uk/national-pharmacy-services/advanced-services/flu-vaccination-service/flu-vaccination-statistics/>.
16. IQVIA. Trends in Vaccine Administration in the United States. IQVIA [Internet]. 2023. [Cited: 23 July 2024]. Available at: <https://www.iqvia.com/insights/the-iqvia-institute/reports/trends-in-vaccine-administration-in-the-united-states>.
17. American Pharmacists Association The Essential Role of Pharmacy in Response to COVID-19: [accessed: 19 September 2024]. Available at: <https://www.pharmacist.com/Practice/COVID-19/The-Essential-Role-of-Pharmacy-in-Response-to-COVID-19/Infographic>.

