

Immunization/Declaratory Ruling

Questions and concerns about safe medical practices routinely come to the SDBMOE. To provide guidance and clarity for South Dakota health care professionals regarding the increasing number of non-traditional delivery methods for vaccines, the SDBMOE issued a declaratory ruling explaining what is required by South Dakota laws and rules for immunizations.

The majority of South Dakota physicians ***do not need to make changes*** to how immunizations are provided to their patients. Physicians will continue to prescribe and delegate to those professionals who are allowed to give injections. Standing orders will continue to be an effective and expedient patient care model.

As set out in the SDBMOE's declaratory ruling, other organizations wishing to provide immunizations must work with a physician or medical director to develop standing orders or protocols to authorize and delegate appropriate vaccine administration. The ruling supports and protects public health with standing orders or protocols which comply with requirements specified in the ruling.

The SDBMOE's ruling provides flexibility and direction for growth in non-traditional delivery methods while maintaining the confidence of the citizens of South Dakota in the safety of their health care.

The SDBMOE's ruling confirms:

- current South Dakota vaccination practice
- authorized prescribers
- those who can give injections

Authorized prescribers licensed by the SDBMOE:

- Physicians: allopathic (MD) and osteopathic (DO)
- Physician Assistants (PA)

Authorized prescribers licensed by Boards other than the SDBMOE:

- Certified Nurse Practitioners, Certified Nurse Midwives
- Providers of: Dentistry, Optometry, Podiatry, and Veterinary Medicine

Those (other than authorized prescribers) who can give vaccinations:

- Paramedics licensed by the SDBMOE with education/training as established by the SDBMOE
- Medical Assistants registered with the SDBMOE (see Ruling Exhibit 2, footnote #4 for conditions)
- Registered nurses and licensed practical nurses licensed and regulated by the SD Nursing Board
- Pharmacists licensed and regulated by the South Dakota Board of Pharmacy may administer influenza immunizations without a prescription or other immunizations with a patient specific prescription or order written by an authorized prescriber.