

Cunningham Centre Nursing Program - Cairns

(Formerly Northern Area Health Service Workforce Directorat)

STUDENT HANDBOOK 2010

**Immunisation Program
Registered Nurse
Health (Drugs & Poisons)
Regulations 1996**

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IMMUNISATION ENDORSEMENT COURSE

Preamble

The successful graduates of the course will meet the criteria posed in the Australian Nursing Federation Competency Standards for the Advanced Nurse and the QNC Competency Standards of Practice for Registered Nurses with Drug Therapy Protocol Endorsement and their performance criteria.

IMMUNISATION PROGRAM - REGISTERED NURSE HEALTH (DRUGS AND POISONS) REGULATION 1996

1.0 NEED FOR COURSE

The Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulations 1996 under section 175(3) provides registered nurses, endorsed to practice in an immunisation program, with authority to:

possess a vaccine or other restricted drug at a place where the nurse practices under the immunisation program; or

b) administer a vaccine or other restricted drug –

- (i) on the oral or written instruction of a doctor, or nurse practitioner; or
- (ii) under a drug therapy protocol.

The need for the course is a direct result of this legislation. For a registered nurse to initiate immunisation they require endorsement. The requirement for endorsement is that registered nurses have undertaken a course accredited by the QNC that meets the criteria for granting endorsement.

1.1 Name of course

Immunisation Program, Registered Nurse, Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation, 1996

1.2 Abbreviation

IMMP H(DP)R 1996

2.0 LEVEL

The course has been developed as equivalent to course work at the Graduate Certificate level. This equivalence will facilitate recognition of prior learning in regard to the Rural & Isolated Practice Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996, Registered Nurse Course.

3.0 PURPOSE AND AIM

The course will prepare registered nurses to apply for endorsement by the QNC to practice under the provisions of the Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation, 1996, Immunisation Program Drug Therapy Protocol. The aim is to provide registered nurses with the knowledge and skills necessary to administer vaccines within immunisation programs across the “whole of life” span.

4.0 ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Working in an agency that provides access to an immunisation program or having concurrent access to an agency that conducts an immunisation program
- Intention to practice in an approved immunisation program
- Must be currently **licensed** to practice as a registered nurse in Queensland
- Certified competence in basic life support of infants, children and adults
- Should intending course participants not be working in an agency that provides access to an immunisation program or not have concurrent access to an agency that provides an immunisation program, the Cunningham Centre Nursing Program - Cairns will seek to arrange a service agreement with a Queensland Health District Health Service that provides access to an immunisation program. A student covered by the service agreement must:
 - Have all other prerequisites listed above
 - Have professional indemnity insurance
 - Be subject to professional confidentiality

4.1 Process for Recognition of Prior Learning

The principles of the recognition of prior learning (RPL) are acknowledged and are addressed in The Education Provider Accreditation application (2007).

Direct applications from registered nurses with documented experience and knowledge will be considered. These nurses will have the opportunity to:

- Present a transcript of previous education and/or experience in immunisation programs.
- Provide evidence of functional knowledge of the Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996.
- Provide evidence that course admission requirements are met.
- Sit a “challenge test” which involves a pass in
 - (a) written supervised open book examination
 - (b) clinical assessment

5.0 COURSE DETAILS

5.1. Course Objectives

1. Fulfil the role of a registered nurse authorised to practice under an Immunisation Program Drug Therapy Protocol.
2. Acquire contemporary knowledge and skills pertaining to the administration of the drugs listed in the Immunisation Program Drug Therapy Protocol.
3. Use multiple approaches to enhance assessment and decision making appropriate to practice context.
4. Manage care of individuals and groups through implementation of the Health Management Protocol.
5. Engage in collaborative practice to achieve optimal client outcomes.
6. Provide culturally appropriate information to clients and carers relevant to the Immunisation Program Drug Therapy Protocol.

6.0 COURSE STRUCTURE & STUDENT WORKLOAD

The course is made up of three components, equivalent to 50 hours of work by students.

- It is anticipated that it would take an average person 6 months to complete the course.
- Deferment will only be considered if there are genuine and extenuating circumstances.

Course components to be completed

Pre Workshop

6.1 Self directed learning: Workbook: 10 hours

- Schedules
- Pre-readings with focus on current NHMRC Australian Immunisation Handbook
- Immunology
- Community Profile
- Legislation

6.2 Clinical observation: (minimum) 3 hours

A clinical log book is to be maintained outlining the clinical encounter/s. Details of immunisation processes and vaccine management are to be documented in a clinical log book. Pre workshop activities may be addressed.

Workshop

6.3 Workshop or equivalent 16 hours

- Legislation relating to immunisation Health Management Protocol, Drug Therapy Protocol and Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996
- Pharmacokinetics/dynamics of vaccines
- Management and administration of vaccines
- Epidemiology of vaccine preventable diseases
- Documentation
- Immunisation program implementation
- Management of contraindications, side effects and anaphylaxis
- Practice post workshop clinical scenarios
- Myths and realities
- Immunity

Post Workshop

6.4 Post workshop workbook 7 hours

- Context of practice (3 hours)
- Clinical scenarios (4 hours)

6.5 Supervised clinical practice (minimum) 3 hours

Student will maintain a clinical log book of the supervised clinical experience with a preceptor/assessor.

6.6 Self directed learning and/or additional clinical placement 6 hours

6.7 Supervised open book examination 3 hours

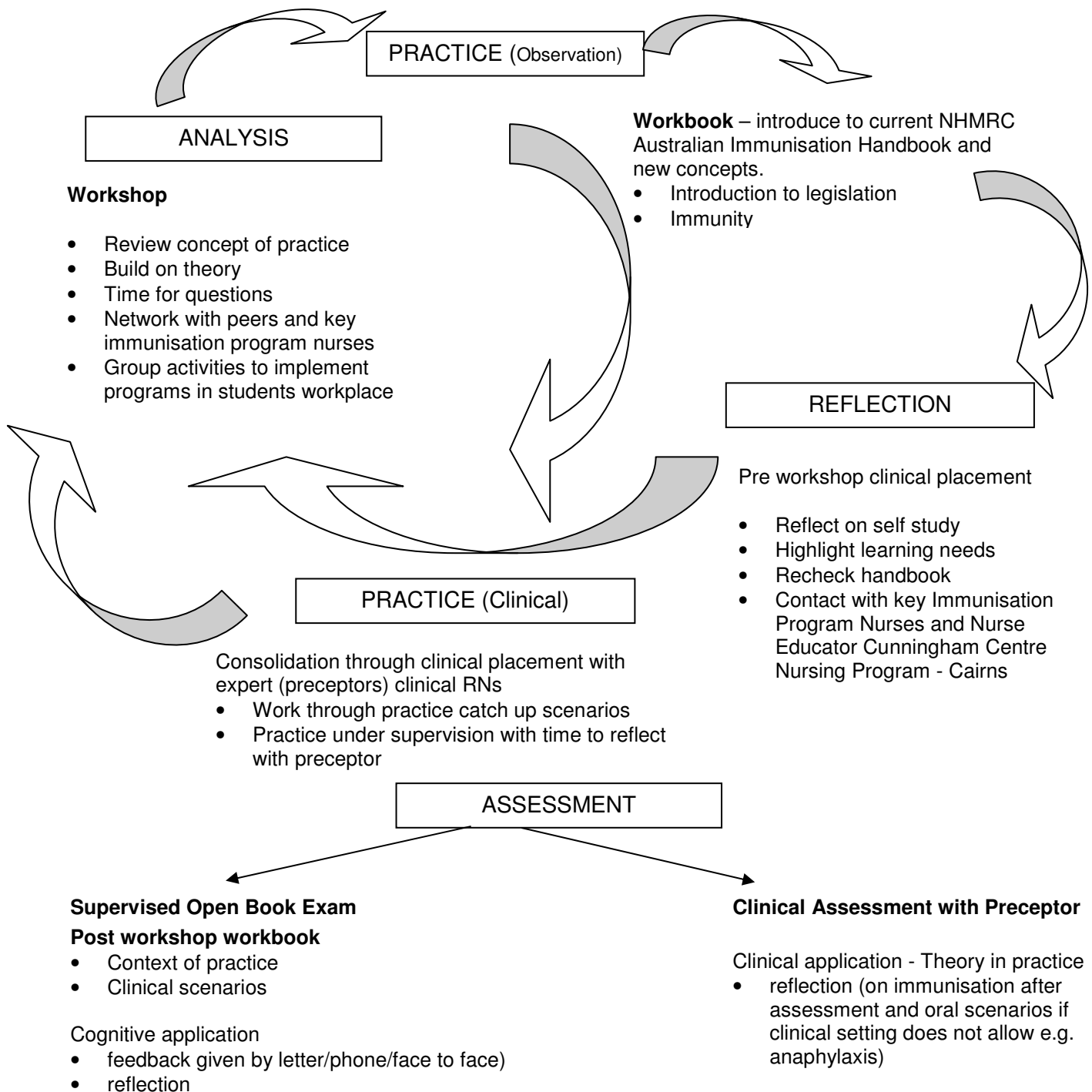
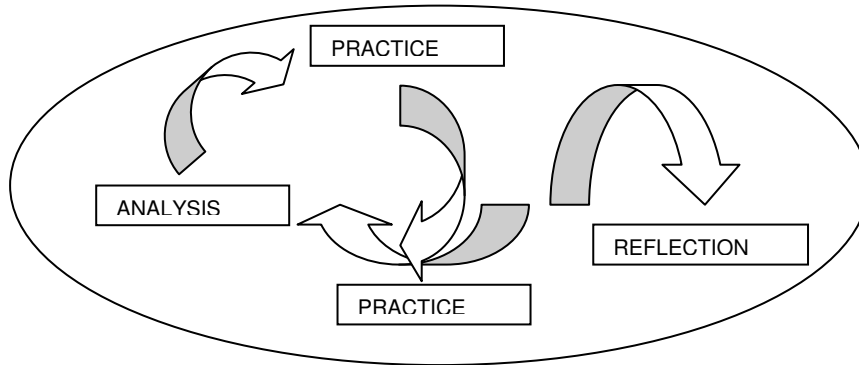
6.8 Clinical assessment 2 hours

To be completed with approved immunisation clinical assessor

6.9 Proposed student progression

Month	Topic and Delivery Strategy	Hrs	Assessments /Evaluations
Pre workshop 1	<p>Self directed learning; Workbook: schedules, pre-readings with focus on current NHMRC Australian Immunisation Handbook, immunology, community profile, vaccine/disease table and legislation.</p> <p>Clinical Observation: To experience immunisation clinic conduct, process and vaccine management a clinical log book is to be maintained. The clinical observation visit may be conducted with or without a preceptor. Pre-workshop activities are to be completed during the clinical observation.</p>	10 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pre-workshop workbook ➤ Basic life support competency (Written results and feedback provided) ➤ Vaccine fridge audit ➤ Clinical log book. ➤ Submit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ employers immunisation Health Management Protocol (HMP), ○ Pre-immunisation questionnaire and ○ Vaccine management procedures (Evaluated and documented on Student Record)
Workshop 2	<p>Two-day workshop or equivalent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Legislation relating to immunisation HMP DTP and Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996 ➤ Pharmacokinetics/dynamics of vaccines ➤ Management and administration of vaccines. ➤ Epidemiology of vaccine preventable diseases ➤ Documentation ➤ Immunisation program implementation ➤ Management of contraindications, side effects and anaphylaxis ➤ Practice post workshop clinical scenarios ➤ Myths and realities ➤ Immunity 	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Student participation required. ➤ Evaluation completed (Discuss issues and feedback provided)
Post Workshop 2	<p>Post workshop workbook</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Context of Practice • Clinical scenarios 	7	Submit for marking (Written result and feedback given)
2-3	<p>Supervised Clinical Practice Student will maintain a clinical log book of the supervised clinical experience with the preceptor/assessor.</p>	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Clinical log book (Clinical log book evaluated)
4-5	Self Study or Extra Clinical Placement	6	Documented in clinical log book
4-5	Supervised Open Book Examination	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Supervised open book exam (marked and feedback given)
5-6	Clinical Assessment: (complete with an approved immunisation clinical assessor).	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Immunisation Clinical Skill Assessment Tool (CSAT) (Assessed and immediate feedback provided)
	TOTAL	50	End of course evaluation

6.10 Immunisation Course Praxis Cycle



7.0 MODE OF DELIVERY / TEACHING STRATEGIES / RESOURCES.

The course will be offered by flexible delivery. Students can attend the workshop (face-to-face) or participate by distance education mode utilising computer assisted learning, teleconference and / or videoconference facilities, DVDs and videos.

The following strategies will apply to both options either workshop or distance mode. This will include pre and post workshop course work and workbooks, hard copy resources, practice post workshop clinical scenarios, DVDs/videos and clinical placement.

To facilitate delivery to remote and rural facilities the Cunningham Centre Nursing Program - Cairns will conduct workshops in Mackay, Mt Isa, Townsville, Cairns and Thursday Island and will involve nurse clinical preceptors and clinicians throughout Northern Queensland to support local implementation.

7.1 Resources

- The current NHMRC Australian Immunisation Handbook
- Tortora & Derrickson Principles of Anatomy & Physiology (2007)
- Marieb & Hoehn Human Anatomy & Physiology (2007)
- Pharmacology texts
- Australian Prescription Product Guide
- Workshop pre-readings
- Pre workshop workbook
- Practice post workshop clinical scenarios
- Health Management Protocol
- Queensland Health- Drug Therapy Protocol Immunisation
- Immunisation Clinical Skills Assessment Tool (CSAT)
- Clinical log book
- Update memos and letters from Queensland Health Immunisation Program (QHIP) / Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR)
- Videos/DVDs
 - Maintaining vaccines
 - Administration of vaccines
 - Vaccine preventable diseases
 - Understanding Immunisation
 - Protecting your Baby
- CD
 - Immunisation resources.

Other Learning Resources

- Tropical Regional Health Services (TRHS)
- Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) clinics and collaborative practice placements with preceptors
- Reflective practice, self and colleagues
- District pharmacists
- Libraries
- QHIP/ACIR
- Current websites on internet (e.g. WHO, CDC, anti immunisation websites)

8.0 ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

A pass must be achieved in each component.

Students who fail to achieve a pass in any part of the course assessment will be allowed to resubmit for reassessment on one occasion only after appropriate remedial intervention. Should the student be unsuccessful on the second attempt of any component, the student will be invited to recommence the entire course.

8.1 Pre workshop and workshop component 15%

Pre workshop self-directed learning is to be submitted prior to the workshop. Pre workshop material is assessed by the immunisation nurse educator. During the workshop the needs of the student are discussed with the immunisation nurse educator who identifies any further learning required.

8.2 Post workshop workbook 10%

Context of practice and clinical scenarios are to be submitted within one month of the workshop. The workbook is marked and written feedback is provided. Students are encouraged to contact the nurse educator for clarification.

8.3 Supervised open book examination 25%

The multiple choice/short answer examination will assess selected subject content. Frequent changes to NHMRC vaccination schedules necessitate the student's acceptance of the current edition of the NHMRC Australian Immunisation Handbook as the single major resource for safe/best practice. The open book approach ensures student familiarity with the current NHMRC Australian Immunisation Handbook and reinforces the significance of maintaining their practice in line with current national standards. Students must achieve a result of 90% in order to pass the examination. The examination is supervised by nominated assessors.

Evaluation and assessment of the open book exam is conducted by the immunisation nurse educator. Feedback is provided to the student in written form and/or face to face and/or may include telephone feedback.

8.4 Clinical assessment 50%

The clinical assessment will involve the student having one to several "practice attempts" supervised by the preceptor. When the student is ready for assessment the student makes an appointment with an approved assessor. The assessment is completed during an immunisation clinic. Students must achieve all clinical assessment competencies; the assessor will give immediate feedback.

Students who are unable to achieve all competencies in the clinical assessment will be offered supervised clinical practice and allowed a second (final) clinical assessment of all competencies.

Students will have six (6) months, following the commencement of the course, in which to complete the course, including clinical assessment. This timeframe has been utilised to ensure participants are not disadvantaged due to difficulties accessing clinical and assessment opportunities. Opportunities for practice in the urban and rural areas are provided by routine immunisation clinics. In most remote communities the RFDS conducts weekly/second weekly immunisation clinics.

9.0 ASSESSORS

9.1 Written assessment (workbook and open book examination):

Nurse educators approved by the Director of the Cunningham Centre Nursing Program - Cairns.

9.2 Preparation of assessors for the immunisation clinical assessment tool

Selection of preceptors/assessors is undertaken by inviting Immunisation Program Nurses to undertake preparation as preceptors/assessors by the Cunningham Centre Nursing Program - Cairns. The Cunningham Centre Nursing Program - Cairns aims to maintain a pool of experienced nurse immunisers/assessors.

An assessor must:

1. Have current Immunisation Program endorsement with the QNC.
2. Have two (2) years experience in immunisation or at the discretion of the Immunisation Course Advisory Committee.
 - Attend a preceptor/assessor workshop (using the Queensland Health Preceptor Program for Nursing Transition Support) convened by Cunningham Centre Nursing Program - Cairns. Preceptor kits are sent prior to the workshop.
 - The workshop is offered by flexible delivery. Participants can attend the workshop (face-to-face) or participate by distance education modes utilising computer assisted learning, videoconference or teleconference facilities.

9.3 Assessor Support

Immunisation assessors/preceptors are regularly updated to current changes by:

- Workshops delivered face-to-face, teleconference or videoconference mode
- Immunisation update kits
- Written documentation on new/current practice issues
- Feedback on student evaluations are reported to the Immunisation Course Advisory Committee and preceptors are provided with feedback
- Visits to immunisation clinics

10.0 ROLES OF PARTNERS IN COURSE PROVISION AND ONGOING COURSE REVIEW

- **Cunningham Centre Nursing Program - Cairns** will advertise, plan, arrange sessions, present sessions, assess students, support students, maintain records, evaluate and review course.
- **Tropical Regional Health Services** will provide content currency, present sessions, assess clinical competency, participate in course evaluation and review and have membership on the Immunisation Course Advisory Committee.
- **Health Service Districts** will present sessions, assess clinical competency, participate in course evaluation and review and have membership on the Immunisation Course Advisory Committee.
- **Immunisation Course Advisory Committee** meets quarterly via teleconference and face-to-face annually.

10.1. Members of the Immunisation Course Advisory Committee

Cunningham Centre Nursing Program - Cairns (Nurse Educator Immunisation)
RFDS (Director of Nursing or delegate)
TRHS (Public Health Nurse – Immunisation Townsville & Cairns, Public Health Nurse CDU Mackay)
Public and private sector (Preceptor representative)
University of Southern Queensland (Representative School of Nursing)
Health Consumer representative
External members with particular expertise may be co-opted as required to advise the Course Advisory Committee on specific matters.

