



Administration of Intramuscular Benzathine Benzylpenicillin G for Acute Rheumatic Fever and Rheumatic Heart Disease Policy

1. Purpose

This policy supports clinical management of acute rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease by a nurse, midwife, Aboriginal Health Practitioner and enrolled nurse (medication administration competent) in the administration of intramuscular benzathine benzylpenicillin G within Structured Administration and Supply Arrangement (SASA) instructions.

2. Policy

A nurse, midwife, Aboriginal Health Practitioner and enrolled nurse (medication administration competent) that is employed or contracted by WA Country Health Service (WACHS) to provide services relating to the management of acute rheumatic fever (ARF) or rheumatic heart disease (RHD) can supply and administer intramuscular benzathine benzylpenicillin G (BPG) in accordance with this policy and as per the [Administration of intramuscular Benzathine Penicillin G \(BPG\) for the Rheumatic Heart Disease Program SASA](#). A SASA for the addition of lidocaine is under development.

A nurse, midwife, Aboriginal Health Practitioner and enrolled nurse (medication administration competent) must be registered with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Authority, be up to date with all their mandatory training and must have completed the following:

- Rheumatic Heart Disease – Introduction (RHD1 EL2) Declaration Package and BPG Made Easy (BPGME EL1)
- Basic Life Support Theory (REPL EL2) and Basic Life Support Assessment (REBL 003)
- Anaphylaxis for Health Professionals Declaration (ANAP EL2).

This policy covers a nurse, midwife, Aboriginal Health Practitioner and enrolled nurse (medication administration competent) who is working with hospitals, public and community health units, child health clinics, nursing posts, remote area clinics and school health settings for WACHS.

The nurse, midwife, Aboriginal Health Practitioner and enrolled nurse (medication administration competent) will record medication administration in the clinical medical record including the following systems (if available):

- Electronic Documents and Records Management System (EDRMS) - all records both clinical and non-clinical are to be stored in the approved EDRMS and in line with the WACHS [Health Record Management Policy](#)
- Community Health Information System (CHIS) - for WACHS staff using the CHIS, the recording of benzathine benzylpenicillin G administration should align with the

data entry standards and clinical user guides located on the [CHIS Resources](#) intranet page.

RHD Register

As summarised in the [ARF and RHD mandatory reporting requirements fact sheet](#), ARF and RHD as notifiable conditions in Western Australia since 19 June 2015. All possible, probable and confirmed cases must be notified to the WA RHD Register using the [notification form](#). This includes when there is clinical suspicion of ARF (i.e., diagnosis not yet confirmed) and for recurrent episodes. It is a requirement that post administration of benzathine benzylpenicillin G for ARF and RHD that the WA RHD Register is notified of each dose administered.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

Line managers are responsible for ensuring that nurses, midwives, Aboriginal Health Practitioners and enrolled nurses (medication administration competent) complete the requirements documented on the SASA including correct record keeping.

The **nurse, midwife, Aboriginal Health Practitioner and enrolled nurse** (medication administration competent) is responsible for:

- working within their scope of practice, including adhering to WACHS and all other relevant operational guidelines, policies and legislative requirements
- delivering culturally informed and culturally safe service
- managing health conditions including the administration of medication and the delivery of education that supports the health of the individual, families and communities.

All staff are required to comply with the directions in WACHS policies and procedures as per their roles and responsibilities. Guidelines are the recommended course of action for WACHS, and staff are expected to use this information to guide practice. If staff are unsure which policies procedures and guidelines apply to their role or scope of practice, and/or are unsure of the application of directions they should consult their manager in the first instance.

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of this policy is to be conducted by the RHD Control Program Manager and Clinical Nurse Specialist through evaluation of RHD Register data, clinical incidents (if any), complaints and staff feedback at least every 4 years or sooner if required.

5. References

Government of Western Australia, [WA Rheumatic Heart Disease Register](#) 2023

RHD Australia (ARF/RHD) writing group). [The 2020 Australian guideline for prevention, diagnosis and management of acute rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease](#) (3.2 edition, March 2022)

Department of Health and Aged Care, [Acute rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease - CDNA National Guidelines for Public Health Units](#) 2023

6. Definitions

Term	Definition
Aboriginal	Within Western Australia, the term Aboriginal is used in preference to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, in recognition that Aboriginal people are the original inhabitants of Western Australia. No disrespect is intended to our Torres Strait Islander colleagues and community.
Structured Administration and Supply Arrangement	A Structured Administration and Supply Arrangement (SASA) is a written direction of the WA Country Health Service (WACHS) that authorises Registered Nurses, under Part 6 of the Medicines and Poisons Regulations 2016, to administer or supply a medicine to patients in specified circumstances, in accordance with clinical guidelines and without a medical prescription or order
Acute Rheumatic Fever	Acute rheumatic fever (ARF) is an autoimmune inflammatory response that may occur after an untreated Group A Streptococcal infection
Rheumatic Heart Disease	Rheumatic heart disease (RHD) is damage to the heart that may occur as a result of acute rheumatic fever.

7. Document Summary

Coverage	WACHS-wide
Audience	Registered nurses, midwives, remote area nurses, Aboriginal Health Practitioners and enrolled nurses (medication administration competent)
Records Management	Clinical: Health Record Management Policy
Related Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Services Act 2016 (WA) • Health (Rheumatic Heart Disease Register of Western Australia) Regulations 2015 • Medicines and Poisons Regulations 2016 • Public Health Act 2016 (WA)
Related Mandatory Policies / Frameworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Governance, Safety and Quality Framework • Clinical Services Planning and Programs Framework
Related WACHS Policy Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Documentation Policy • Medication Prescribing and Administration Policy
Other Related Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structured Administration and Supply Agreement (SASA) - Administration of intramuscular Benzathine Penicillin G for RHD and ARF
Related Forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WA Rheumatic Heart Disease Register – Register notification process
Related Training	<p>Available from MyLearning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rheumatic Heart Disease Introduction Declaration (RHDI EL2) Package
Aboriginal Health Impact Statement Declaration (ISD)	ISD Record ID: 2404
National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards	4.01a, 4.01c, 4.02b, 4.04 and 4.15
Aged Care Quality Standards	Nil
Chief Psychiatrist's Standards for Clinical Care	Nil
Other Standards	Nil

8. Document Control

Version	Published date	Current from	Summary of changes
1.01	28 August 2023	28 August 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> minor changes to align with WACHS learning management system
2.00	26 Sept 2025	26 Sept 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> change to title addition of other health professionals who can administer intramuscular Benzathine Penicillin G for RHD and ARF

9. Approval

Policy Owner	Executive Director Clinical Excellence
Co-approver	Executive Director Nursing & Midwifery
Contact	Clinical Nurse Specialist Rheumatic Heart Program
Business Unit	Population Health
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