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

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## 1. Purpose

This policy supports clinical management of acute rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease by nurse administration of intramuscular benzathine benzylpenicillin G within Structured Administration and Supply Arrangement (SASA) instructions.

## 2. Policy

A Registered Nurse that is employed or contracted by 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 [Nurse administration of intramuscular Benzathine Penicillin G \(BPG\) for the Rheumatic Heart Disease Program SASA](#).

Nurses 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 WACHS Learning and Development Declaration Package via [MyLearning](#) Learning Management System:

- Rheumatic Heart Disease Introduction Declaration (RHDI EL2) Package.

This policy covers nurses who are working in hospitals, public and community health units, child health clinics, nursing posts, remote area clinics and school health settings for WACHS.

The nurse 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 [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

The Registered Nurse is responsible for working within their scope of practice, including adhering to WACHS and all other relevant operational guidelines, policies and legislative requirements, including delivering culturally informed and culturally safe service. The Registered Nurse is to manage health conditions including the administration of medication and is to deliver education that supports the health of the individual, families and communities.

**All staff** are required to work within policies and guidelines to make sure that WACHS is a safe, equitable and positive place to be.

### 4. Monitoring and Evaluation

#### 4.1 Monitoring

Line managers will be responsible for ensuring that Registered Nurses complete the requirements documented on the SASA including correct record keeping.

#### 4.2 Evaluation

Evaluation of this policy is to be carried out by the Control Program Manager and Clinical Nurse Specialist through evaluation of RHD Register data, clinical incidents (if any), complaints and staff feedback at least every 6 months or sooner if required.

### 5. Compliance

This policy supports the implementation of the [Health \(Rheumatic Heart Disease Register of Western Australia\) Regulations 2015](#).

Failure to comply with this policy may constitute a breach of the WA Health Code of Conduct (Code). The Code is part of the [Integrity Policy Framework](#) issued pursuant to Section 26 of the [Health Services Act 2016](#) and is binding on all WACHS staff which for this purpose includes trainees, students, volunteers, researchers, contractors for service (including all visiting health professionals and agency staff) and persons delivering training or education within WACHS.

WACHS staff are reminded that compliance with all policies and procedures is mandatory.

### 6. 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](#)

## 7. Definitions

Term	Definition
Structured Administration and Supply Arrangement (SASA)	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 (ARF)	Acute rheumatic fever develops after an illness caused by a reaction to bacterial group a streptococcal (Strep A) infection, that targets specific areas of the body, including the heart, joints, brain, and skin.
Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD)	Rheumatic heart disease is damage to one or more heart valves that remains after the symptoms of ARF have resolved.

## 8. Document Summary

<b>Coverage</b>	WACHS state-wide
<b>Audience</b>	Registered Nurses and Midwives
<b>Records Management</b>	Clinical: <a href="#">Health Record Management Policy</a>
<b>Related Legislation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Health Services Act 2016 (WA)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Health (Rheumatic Heart Disease Register of Western Australia) Regulations 2015</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Medicines and Poisons Regulations 2016</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Public Health Act 2016 (WA)</a></li> </ul>
<b>Related Mandatory Policies / Frameworks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Clinical Governance, Safety and Quality</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Clinical Services Planning and Programs</a></li> </ul>
<b>Related WACHS Policy Documents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Documentation - Clinical Practice Standard</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Medication Prescribing and Administration Policy</a></li> </ul>
<b>Other Related Documents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Structured Administration and Supply Agreement (SASA) - Administration of intramuscular Benzathine Penicillin G for RHD and ARF</a></li> </ul>
<b>Related Forms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">WA Rheumatic Heart Disease Register – Register notification process</a></li> </ul>
<b>Related Training Packages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Rheumatic Heart Disease Introduction Declaration (RHDI EL2) Package</a></li> </ul>
<b>Aboriginal Health Impact Statement Declaration (ISD)</b>	ISD Record ID: 2404
<b>National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards</b>	4.01a, 4.01c, 4.02b, 4.04 and 4.15
<b>Aged Care Quality Standards</b>	Nil
<b>National Standards for Mental Health Services</b>	Nil

## 9. Document Control

Version	Published date	Current from	Summary of changes
1.01	28 August 2023	28 August 2023	Minor changes to align with WACHS learning management system

## 10. Approval

<b>Policy Owner</b>	Executive Director Clinical Excellence
<b>Co-approver</b>	Executive Director Nursing & Midwifery
<b>Contact</b>	Clinical Nurse Specialist Rheumatic Heart Program
<b>Business Unit</b>	Population Health
<b>EDRMS #</b>	ED-CO-20-70066
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