Factsheet 12 – How to enter overseas immunisation information on AIR

Prefer to watch a video on this topic?

Overseas immunisation records can be recorded onto an individual’s AIR record. There are two methods for recording this information on AIR.

1. Using the AIR encounter screen. Refer to Appendices 5 and 6. On the ‘Record Encounter’ screen, select ‘This encounter was performed overseas’ or ‘Another provider performed this encounter in Australia’ in the drop-down box (Figure 1).

2. Completing the AIR immunisation history form (IM013.1807) (Figure 2). Follow steps outlined below. (The AIR immunisation history form can also be used to report immunisation details not reported by another provider in Australia.)

Note: It is important to sight proof of immunisation. Make sure the right vaccines and right antigens are identified and reported accurately to AIR. Refer to information on page 66 for guidance about interpreting overseas immunisation histories or call your local public health unit for advice.

Completing the AIR immunisation form history:

1. Download the form at www.humanservices.gov.au/organisations/health-professionals/forms/imo13
2. Complete Part B (circled in yellow in Figure 2).
3. Mark an ‘X’ in the ‘If given overseas’ box (highlighted in red in Figure 2).
4. When recording vaccine details in Part B, if the vaccine brand name is unknown, then select ‘Other (please specify)’, for example, use dTpa rather than Infanrix®. This allows the correct antigens to be identified and recorded on the history.
5. If the child or adolescent is on a catch-up schedule, this can be notified by ticking the option, highlighted in green in Figure 2. This allows family assistance payments to be made; however, this notification will only remain in place for six months and can only be lodged once for a child or adolescent.
6. Before submitting to AIR, a copy should be kept on the person’s medical record.
7. Submit the form by posting or faxing to the address or fax number listed on the first page of the form. The form cannot be submitted online using HPOS.

Resources to help interpret overseas immunisation histories

The World Health Organization provides an online tool (available at http://apps.who.int/immunization_monitoring/globalsummary/schedules) which lists international vaccination schedules including antigens and their description (Figure 3).

This can assist with identifying catch-up schedules for children from overseas where no health record is available.

To use the tool:

1. Select the country of interest from the ‘Countries list’
2. Click on ‘Select all vaccines’
3. Click ‘OK’; a vaccination schedule for the chosen country will be provided.
The US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) provides a guide to foreign immunisation language terms (available at https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/appendices/b/foreign-products-tables.pdf)

It includes tables listing:

- terms for vaccine-preventable diseases, vaccines and other items that might be found on an immunisation record (by language)
- names of specific vaccines that are used or have been used internationally, along with the manufacturer and country or region (where known).

This information can help with translating immunisation documents from other countries.