

Who is a Competent Vaccinator?

There are many health care professionals with different kinds of professional and degree status functions working as vaccinators. A study conducted by Nikula (2011, p. 15, Table 1) discovered 45 different names for health care workers who give vaccinations.

Students in health care professions as well as health care workers need evidence-based knowledge in vaccination, and they need skills to administer vaccines and provide efficient counselling. Vaccination training is carried out by each student's educational institution, and continuing training is provided by the employer.

HEIs are responsible for vaccination education. Vaccinators are certified health care professionals who have received vaccination training and thus permission to administer vaccinations. Administering of vaccinations is regulated by legislation.

Some distinctive personal qualities have been defined for the competent vaccinator in the vaccinator-client encounter: calmness, honesty, security, confidence and sensing the client. It is important that the vaccinator is able to calm both children and adults and can sense clients of all ages. Confidence as a personal quality is a key to co-operation with clients as well as honesty. It is important also that the vaccinator can inspire a sense of security because many clients are afraid of vaccination. The vaccinator must have good knowledge and skills in vaccination of different age groups and a positive attitude towards vaccination. Vaccination competence should be updated regularly. (Nikula, 2011).

Other desirable attributes of the competent vaccinator include respecting clients, being friendly and willing to engage in a dialogue with clients. Competent vaccinators understand that vaccinating is more than merely administering injections or other vaccines via mouth or nose. Competent vaccinators understand the profound significance of vaccinating from the perspective of public health care and its other beneficial social impacts. (Nikula, 2011).

References

Nikula, A. 2011. *Vaccination competence - The concept and evaluation*. Annales Universitatis Turkuensis D 995. Turun yliopisto. <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-951-29-4829-1>