



## **POLICY ON IMMUNISATION IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS**

### **1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

- 1.1 ACEM recognises that immunisation is a cornerstone of modern public health.
- 1.2 The Emergency Department is an area where deficiencies in immunisation status can be identified, however Emergency Departments are not primary providers of routine immunisations.
- 1.3 The policy is applicable to Emergency Departments in general.

### **2. POLICY**

- 2.1 Emergency Departments will support primary health and public health in the implementation of immunisation programs.

### **3. PROCEDURE AND ACTIONS**

- 3.1 To promote the health and wellbeing of the community, ACEM supports the following principles:
  - 3.1.1 Children and "at risk" adults should be screened for immunisation status.
  - 3.1.2 Vaccines that are immediately clinically indicated should be given in the Emergency Department.
  - 3.1.3 Emergency Departments should establish procedures for referral of patients with deficient immunisations.
  - 3.1.4 Emergency Departments should consider the administration of routine vaccinations if other sources are not available or if there is concern regarding patient compliance with referral procedures.
- 3.2 All health care personnel should be aware of their immunisation status and be offered vaccination against any vaccine preventable diseases.
- 3.3 Emergency Departments should liaise with local public health authorities during episodes of outbreak of vaccine preventable disease.