

Vaccine Management

Cliona Kiersey
Chief Pharmacist
National Immunisation Office

pharmacynio@hse.ie

Vaccines are costly and must be managed carefully

- **COLD-CHAIN:**

Vaccines must be stored within a specific temperature range between +2 and +8°C to ensure their potency and to comply with regulations (PA/EU licence)

Strive for 5 (+5°C +/- 3°C)

Freezing may cause the vial to crack leading to contamination

Continuity of Cold-Chain (until time of administration of vaccine) is essential

ACTIONS at your site:

- Immediate refrigeration of vaccines

- Twice daily reading of fridge temperatures (record if no datalogger)

- Review of datalogger, download & battery check

Revaccination will be required if vaccine potency is compromised due to temperature deviation and this may lead to loss of confidence in programmes which may affect uptake-

Stock Management

- Vaccine stocks should be kept to a minimum by regularly ordering the anticipated quantity of vaccine required until the next delivery.
- There should be a designated person placing the monthly order and therefore this person can calculate the stock usage they require during the coming month, according to the size of the target cohort.
- Check the online calendar for closing date of order (put reminder in phone) and place order before 3pm on that date.

Stock Rotation

- Rotate stock when checking stock pre-ordering or when placing new delivery into the fridge
- Rotating stock prevents build up of expired stock
- Overstocking or not rotating stock may lead to expired vaccines being administered and therefore will require revaccination- affect confidence in programme.

Temperature Deviations

Email immediately: pharmacynio@hse.ie

- Keep vaccines in quarantine between +2°C & +8°C.
- Email Pharmacy in the NIO
- Follow advice received
- If advised that vaccines have been adversely affected remove them immediately from the fridge
- Place in a box with completed vaccine return form and store securely and conveniently until they are returned to NCCS van-driver at next delivery.

Remember

- Vaccines are valuable and include them in your insurance policy
- Your vaccine delivery requires immediate attention
- Read fridge temperature twice daily
- Rotate stock
- Do not overstock
- Order vaccines on time

- THANK YOU