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Sept/Oct 2016

Updated Storage and Handling Toolkit

The 2016 Toolkit has a new design to help healthcare providers find the information

they need quickly and easily. The beginning chapters address the three main elements of an effective cold chain: a well-trained staff, reliable storage and temperature monitoring equipment, and accurate vaccine inventory management. The remaining chapters focus on emergency management of vaccine and developing standard operating procedures for routine and emergency storage and handling.

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/storage/toolkit/storage-handling-toolkit.pdf>

Temperature Range Change

The 2016 Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit reflects an adjustment in CDC's guidance on the Fahrenheit temperature range for storing refrigerated vaccines. The new recommended Fahrenheit temperature range is 36°F–46°F (previously 35°F–46°F). The Celsius temperature range (2°C–8°C) remains unchanged, as stated in all manufacturer package inserts for routinely recommended vaccines. CDC has published a question and answer document titled Adjustment to CDC's Recommended Fahrenheit Temperature Range for Refrigerated Vaccine Storage that explains the rationale behind this decision and practical information on implementing this new standard.

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/storage/downloads/temp-change-qa.pdf>

Monitoring Vaccine Waste

CDC's expectation is that vaccine waste rates remain under 5%. Waste is being closely monitored and providers are being contacted when it is excessive. Most waste is due to over-ordering vaccine, and improper stock rotation. Providers with very small VFC eligible populations often cannot use an entire box of vaccine before it expires, and may need to work with near-by VFC-enrolled providers to prevent wasting vaccine. It is the provider's responsibility to take the steps necessary to ensure federally funded vaccine is administered, and not wasted. When you have vaccine you cannot use, contact VVFC for assistance, three months before it expires.

Handling Temperature Excursions

Always take immediate action when you notice an out-of-range temperature. You may need to move the vaccines temporarily to a more reliable storage unit and determine the source of the problem. Above all, don't chart an out-of-range temperature and not act on it! IAC has created temperature recording logs and a troubleshooting record to document unacceptable

vaccine storage events. The vaccine manufacturers must be called when there is a temperature excursion. The stability data from the vaccine manufacturers will be requested for excursions noted on data logger reports that are submitted with vaccine orders.

www.immunize.org/handouts/vaccine-storage-handling.asp

Flu Vaccine Supply for 2016-17

ACIP voted in favor of an interim recommendation that live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV), also known as FluMist, should not be used during the 2016-2017 flu season. CDC has made additional doses of injectable vaccine available to the VVFC program to compensate for this. Injectable doses will be available to replace your prebooked FluMist doses.

Handouts: Clinic Resources

Please find many helpful tools such as temperature logs, check lists, and PDF (fillable) worksheets from the Immunization Action Coalition located here:

<http://www.immunize.org/handouts/vaccine-storage-handling.asp>

Updated VISs

The Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, MenB, and Polio vaccine information statements have recently been updated by CDC. CDC has confirmed that the influenza Vaccine Information Statements (VISs) will remain the same for the 2016–2017 influenza season. Healthcare providers do not need to wait for new publications of influenza VISs as they have in previous years. Current VISs can be found on CDC's website at

www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/index.html

Gold Star Awards (June/July)

Outstanding VVFC Compliance

Commonwealth Pediatrics-Harbour Pt., Midlothian
Commonwealth Pediatrics, Richmond
Commonwealth Pediatrics-Westchester, Midlothian
Cornerstone Pediatrics, Chesapeake
EVMS/Portsmouth Family Medicine, Portsmouth
PDC Pediatrics, Norfolk
Port Warwick Pediatrics, Newport News
Roanoke Salem Family Practice, Roanoke
Royal Oak Pediatric Associates, Marion
Sentara Pediatric Physicians-Glen Mitchell, Virginia Beach
Sentara Pediatric Physicians-Princess Anne, Virginia Beach
Tri State Rural Health Clinic, Grundy
Win & Thu M.D., Falls Church

Process Improvement

Charlottesville Pediatrics & Adolescent, Charlottesville
Pediatric Partners of Hampton Roads, Chesapeake

A positive attitude goes a long way. Staff can use stressful situations to their educational advantage. While the burden of change is a somewhat frustrating experience, these providers focused on making necessary improvements. They developed new ways to approach vaccine safety and made it a priority to better understand stability and control.

