



Plymouth

Medicines Management Team
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25th June 2010

Dear Colleague

Re: NPSA Rapid Response Report RRR008 Vaccine cold storage

The National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) issued a rapid response that was sent to you in January 2010. The following recommendations were made:

- All holders of vaccine stocks should be aware of relevant policy on safe storage. NHS Plymouth has produced guidance to be used alongside the existing recommendations provided by the Department of Health (enclosed)
- There must be a designated person and deputy/ies responsible for receipt and storage of vaccines.

This must be in place by 21st July 2010.

NHS Plymouth is responsible for assuring that all providers are compliant with NPSA alerts; to provide that assurance please complete the form below. This rapid response refers specifically to vaccine storage but the principles are just as important for the storage of any medication in the fridge. Even if you do not routinely store vaccines you may want to review your procedures in light of the published guidance.

Background: The NPSA has highlighted that immunisation is a highly effective way of protecting individuals and communities from infectious disease. However, to remain potent, vaccines must be stored within the temperature range recommended by manufacturers [+2°C to +8°C]. Incorrect storage of vaccines is not only wasteful and costly to the NHS, the failure to store vaccines correctly, particularly at temperatures **below** the manufacturers' recommendations, can reduce vaccine effectiveness and cause vaccine failures. Freezing may also cause hairline cracks in the container, leading to contamination of the contents.

The full rapid response is available at

<http://www.nrls.npsa.nhs.uk/alerts/?entryid45=66111>

To help you assess any risks the NPSA has included a risk assessment in the supporting information booklet which can be downloaded.

Yours sincerely,

Beth Waterhouse
Medicines management technician

Pharmacy Address Stamp

I have received your letter of 25th June 2010 concerning the storage of vaccines.

Declaration

I confirm that we store vaccines Yes/No

If **Yes**, I confirm that my pharmacy complies with the Rapid Response Report RRR008 (Vaccine cold storage) or that we will be compliant by the 21st July 2010.

Signature.....

Date.....

Please **fax** return by 23rd July 2010 to:

Lynn Bailey

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