

Top 10 Takeaway's from...

Vaccine Management for the Primary Care Provider: What You Need to Know

- ✓ The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) issues and maintains vaccine recommendations and immunization schedules for U.S. children and adults.
- ✓ Each practice should integrate ACIP schedules into a comprehensive, office-wide vaccine management plan to protect and maintain the office's vaccine supply.
- ✓ Vaccines should be stored per the recommendations set forth by the CDC in its *Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit* (2016),¹ ensuring that procedures support a "vaccine cold chain" temperature-controlled environment to maintain and distribute vaccines in optimal condition. The vaccine cold chain begins with the cold storage unit at the vaccine manufacturing plant, extends through the transport of vaccine to the distributor, then delivery to the provider, and ends with the administration of the vaccine to the patient.
- ✓ Vaccine storage units should be dedicated only to the storage of vaccines, be of sufficient size to hold the year's largest inventory, and contain a certified and calibrated thermometer inside each storage compartment.
- ✓ Vaccines should be stored in original packaging until ready for use. Vaccines of the same type should be stored together, and refrigerated diluents should be stored with corresponding vaccines.
- ✓ The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) recommends checking and recording the temperature of vaccine storage units at least twice a day, with entry of temperatures into I-CARE at least weekly for Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers.²
- ✓ CDC recommends using a continuous monitoring and recording digital data logger (DDL) with a current and valid Certificate of Calibration Testing (or Report of Calibration), set at a minimum recording interval of at least every 30 minutes. A calibrated DDL should be provided for each vaccine storage unit and each emergency transport unit.¹
- ✓ Providers must distribute VIS with each vaccine and should report adverse events through VAERS.
- ✓ Immunization rates can be improved with educational materials, standing orders for non-physician personnel to administer vaccines, ongoing office-level assessment, and reminder systems.
- ✓ Vaccine registries such as the Illinois Comprehensive Automated Immunization Registry Exchange (I-CARE) enable providers to track and record vaccines for their patients, improve vaccination rates through reminder systems, and allow registered healthcare providers to share immunization records of Illinois residents with other providers statewide.

Sources:

¹CDC. *Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit* (2016). <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/storage/toolkit/storage-handling-toolkit.pdf>.

²Illinois Department of Public Health. *Vaccine Management Plan*. http://www.idph.state.il.us/about/VFC/Vaccine_Management_Plan.pdf