

# COLD CHAIN

Single  
Point  
Lesson

The 'cold chain' is a term used to describe the cold temperature conditions in which vaccines need to be kept during storage and distribution. Maintaining the cold chain ensures that vaccines are transported and stored according to the manufacturer's recommended temperature range of +2°C to +8°C until the point of administration.

Named and trained person(s) should be nominated for receiving vaccines. On receipt of the delivery the designated person(s) should check against the order for discrepancies and for leakage or damage before signing for them. Vaccines must be kept in original packaging and refrigerated immediately on receipt and must not be left at room temperature

Rotate stock so that those with the shortest expiry date are moved to the front of the refrigerator and used first. Make regular stock-checks to remove expired vaccines. Keep vaccines in more than one fridge where this is possible.

Temperature monitoring  
**Do observe the four R's**  
Read Record Reset React  
**ACTS** if the temperature falls outside  
+2 to +8degrees C

**Note:** any vaccine that has not been stored at +2 to +8 degrees C as per its licensing conditions is no longer a licensed product.

Vaccines cost the NHS around £200 million a year.

- The loss of only one dose of Pediacel vaccine a month in each general practice would cost an estimated £4 million year.



When stocking your fridge please remember.

- Check expiry dates regularly – never use out of date vaccine
- Keep vaccines in their original packaging in the main part of the fridge, not in drawers
- Keep your fridge door locked at all times
- Keep the opening of the fridge door to a minimum.
- Use a maximum-minimum thermometer and keep a daily record of the temperatures.
  - Use two methods of measuring temperatures.
- Have back-up storage for your vaccines in case of power failure
- Position the fridge away from heat sources and mark or tape the fridge plug to avoid it to being turned off accidentally
- See Chapter 3 of the Green Book for more information

The Infection Control Nurses can be contacted if you require any additional advice/support on 01744 457314