

Management of Publicly Funded Vaccines and Biologics

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to provide standards to all those who care for and/or administer publicly funded vaccines and/or biologics on the management of these products in their care, including procurement, handling, storage, response to storage excursions, distribution and inventory reporting.

Preamble: The Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health (OCMOH) provides vaccines and biologics for use in New Brunswick through three program areas:

- routine programs for infants, children and adults;
- targeted programs for high risk individuals;
- communicable disease follow up

A key component of any successful immunization program is the safe handling and storage of vaccines and biologics; a responsibility that is shared amongst all those from the time of manufacturing until vaccine and or biologics are administered. Not only is the loss of vaccine and biologics the loss of a valuable resource, but using vaccines or biologics that have been improperly handled or stored may result in a less than optimum immune response.

Policy: Vaccines and biologics provided by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health shall be used and handled in accordance with the immunization program policies and standards as outlined in the New Brunswick Immunization Program Guide.

Standards:

1. Publicly funded vaccines and biologics provided through the OCMOH shall be used in keeping with the NBIPG document *Eligibility Criteria for Publicly Funded Vaccine and Biologics*.
2. No recipient shall be charged for the cost of OR for the administration of publicly funded vaccines or biologics.
3. All vaccine and biologics shall be stored and handled under cold chain conditions at all times, equivalent to the National Vaccine Storage Guidelines. See NBIPG document - *Vaccine Storage and Handling*.
4. All storage excursions are to be reported as outlined in the NBIPG document *Management of Storage Excursions*.