

BLYTH ROAD MEDICAL CENTRE COLD CHAIN POLICY

“The ‘cold chain’ is a term used to describe the cold temperature conditions in which certain products 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”. (Green Book, Chapter3 – Storage, Distribution and Disposal of Vaccines)

All medications ordered and kept at the surgery are stored in line with the recommended guidelines as stated in the green book.

When stock is received it is routinely packed by the supplier in insulated boxes to keep it at the correct temperature during transit where it is required to be kept refrigerated.

On receipt of this stock the packages are opened and the contents immediately stored in one of the practices clinical refrigerators.

The practice has the appropriate temperature controlled refrigerators for which a log is kept and the temperature is checked and recorded on a daily basis. Recorded on the log is the date, current, maximum and minimum temperatures, staff signature and any comments. After each recording the thermometer is reset (following manufactures instruction) so that new temperatures can be recorded.

The refrigerators are kept locked at all times to avoid the doors being accidentally left open and access from unauthorised persons.

If a malfunction occurs within one of the refrigerators the temperature is recorded, all stock is moved to an alternative refrigerator but is kept separate. In the unlikely event of both fridges failing, stock should be moved to the pharmacy fridge. The manufacturers are telephoned to discuss the incident and for advice on whether the stock is still usable. Information would be required from nursing staff regarding when the refrigerator/s was known to be working correctly to establish approximately how many hours the refrigerator/s might have been out of use before this advice can be sought.

Should the stock be unusable this would be documented before disposal. Vaccine wastage incidents will be reported through ImmForm and to the local screening and immunisation team. Depending on the value of the loss the Practice insurance company may have to be approached in order for a claim to be made. The insurance policy only covers fridges under 10 years old.

Rachel England-Frost October 2021

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