

RACGP STANDARDS FOR GENERAL PRACTICES (4TH EDITION) FACT SHEET**COLD CHAIN MANAGEMENT**

In order to meet cold chain management requirements, practices must:

- monitor and record the minimum and maximum temperature of refrigerators in which any vaccines are stored at least once daily when the practice is open, before any vaccines are used; and
- view and consider (but not record) the current temperature every time the refrigerator is opened.

Rationale

The cold chain is the system of transporting and storing vaccines within the safe temperature range of +2°C to +8°C. Vaccines are delicate biological products and if not stored appropriately they become ineffective.

The National Vaccine Storage Guidelines: Strive for 5 provides more details on cold chain management and is the authoritative guidance in this area. It can be accessed at [www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/DF94731AD8CBF34ECA2575BD001C8129/\\$File/strive-4-five.pdf](http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/DF94731AD8CBF34ECA2575BD001C8129/$File/strive-4-five.pdf)