

Subject: NCIP Policy on Multi-Dose Vaccine Vials

Effective: November 21, 2011

Policy:

NC Immunization Program providers who use multi-dose vials of vaccine must adhere to the following best practices:

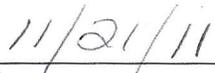
Providers are expected to draw the same number of doses from a multi-dose vial as specified in the prescribing information for that vaccine. If a provider is repeatedly discovered by Branch staff to be getting more or less than the appropriate number of doses per vial, a referral should be made to the Field Services Unit for further education on vaccine administration to ensure providers are drawing up the correct amount and using appropriate equipment. Further, use of reasons such as, "getting more than 10 doses from vial", or "not enough in vial to complete 10 doses" when correcting inventory within the North Carolina Immunization Registry (NCIR) should be used only when providers unintentionally get an incorrect number of doses from a multi-dose vial.

Currently, vaccines are exempted from The Joint Commission's 28-day rule indicating that unused prescription drugs in multi-dose vials should be discarded 28 days after opening or puncture. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that vaccines are to be discarded **per the manufacturer's expiration date**. The Joint Commission is now applying this approach to all vaccines (whether a part of CDC's vaccine program, state immunization programs, or purchased by healthcare facilities) with the understanding that the vaccines are stored and handled appropriately (correct temperature is maintained, frequency of temperature checks, etcetera). Following the guidelines provided in the package insert is very important to assure integrity of the vaccine. For more details on The Joint Commission's policy, go to:

www.jointcommission.org. For more details on vaccine storage and handling, go to: www.cdc.gov/vaccines

Vaccine with expiration dates on the vial with only the month and year may be used through the last day of that month. As doses are used, multi-dose vials should be marked in order to keep an accurate inventory.


Approved by


Date