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சுகாதார, போசணை மற்றும் சுதேச வைத்திய அமைச்சு
Ministry of Health, Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine

All Provincial Directors of Health Services
All Regional Directors of Health Services
All MOOH

Issue of vaccines used in the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) to the Private health sector service providers

National Immunization Programme (NIP) provides immunization services free of charge to all eligible target population through its wide service provision network in the country. However, a small proportion of public use to receive immunization services through the private sector institutions largely due to convenience. In accordance with the National Immunization Policy, the Ministry of Health recognizes the existence of immunization services in the private sector institutions with special attention on ensuring the quality and safety of vaccines. With this objective the NIP provides vaccines used in the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) to the private sector aiming at wider immunization services in the country.

NIP issues EPI vaccines (BCG, OPV, IPV, Pentavalent, MMR, LJEV, DTP, DT and TT) to registered private health institutions/practitioners under the following conditions.

1. Private health sector institution/practitioner needs to be registered at the Private Health Regulatory Council (PHSRC) which was established under the Private Medical Institutions (Registration) Act No 21 of 2006 (<http://www.phsrc.lk>)
2. All EPI vaccines to be used by private sector need to adhere to the National EPI schedule endorsed by the Advisory Committee on Communicable Diseases.
3. Required vaccine stocks need to be requested and obtained from the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) office where the institution is situated by a formal stock request.
4. Vaccine stocks will be issued on a monthly basis based on a monthly consumption requirement, on request.
5. It is the duty of a private health institution to ensure vaccine cold chain maintenance during transport and storage in accordance with the National Guidelines (Immunization Hand Book 2012, National EPI, Epidemiology Unit, Ministry of Health).

6. Need to adhere to the open vial policy for all liquid EPI vaccines (OPV, IPV, Pentavalent, DPT, DT and TT) – (Refer to Immunization Hand Book 2012 ,National EPI, Epidemiology Unit , Ministry of Health).
7. Immunization service providers are supposed to take all possible measures to minimize vaccine wastage. For the reconstituted vaccines acceptable upper limit of wastage is less than 25% (except for BCG). For liquid vaccines it is 10%.
8. Vaccination information including number of doses used, number of children vaccinated with index vaccine in each age group need to be sent monthly to the index MOH office on or before the 10th of the next month. Failure to send these information on time may cause stoppage of issue of vaccines to the index institution.
9. If any Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) is detected/observed need to notify to the area MOH using AEFI notification form (available at www.epid.gov.lk).
10. All Private sector institutions performing vaccinations using Government EPI vaccines are supposed **NOT** to charge any fee for the vaccines from the clients. But a service fee can be charged as recommended by the Private Health Regulatory Council (PHSRC).

If any institution is found not adhering to the above essential required conditions, relevant Medical Officer of Health issuing vaccines are advised to suspend issue of vaccines to the index institution/practitioner.



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