FamilyCare Procedure

Printed: 3/16/2008 6:18:00 PM

Topic: Power Outage, Refrigerator & Freezer

Purpose: To identify steps to take when power goes out to protect vaccine supply

and laboratory reagents.

Responsibility: All Clinical Staff

Materials: Insulated coolers Cold packs from the freezer

Temperature monitors Dry ice for varicella Insulator material (bubble wrap, foam wrap, or crumpled paper) Insulated coolers in off-site storage less than 3 miles away

Prior to Need:

Alternative Storage Sites: (Staff with generators at home, knowledgeable about vaccine storage. This staff is also responsible for moving the vaccines and reagents.)

☐ Bob Smithing & Maddy Wiley: 253.852.7723

☑ Brenda Lee: 206.234.5924
☑ Cyndi Facciala: 253.310.2250
☑ Sharon Sasse: 253.709.0538

Building has an alarm system that is monitored and which will notify staff, calling until an answer is received, of a power outage at the office.

Dry Ice is available from Airgas Dry Ice, 6643 S 216th St, Kent, WA 98032, 253.874.9474. It is also frequently available from supermarkets in the case of an anticipated power outage.

Power Outage Less Than 4 Hours:

1. If a power outage lasts four hours or less, it is not necessary to move the vaccines or reagents. Keep them in the refrigerator or freezer, as appropriate, and keep the door closed as much as possible.

MMR vaccine is the most susceptible to warmer temperatures but can be moved into the freezer at least until power is restored. Note: Never stored diluent in the freezer as the vials may crack.

Power Outage 4 or More Hours:

- 1. Follow the Vaccine Packing and Shipping procedure. In this case coolers may be substituted for Styrofoam containers.
- 2. Pack the refrigerated vaccines first with an adequate supply of cold packs. Include a thermometer in the container.
- 3. Remove and pack varicella vaccine, using dry ice, immediately before it is to be transported. Use gloves to handle dry ice!
- 4. Pack and transport all vaccines, or if that is not possible, save only the most expensive vaccines to minimize dollar loss (Prevnar, Varivax, Pediarix, MMR, DTaP). Save some portion of all vaccines to ensure a short-term supply for resuming the vaccination schedule.
- 5. Open refrigerated units only when absolutely necessary and only after you have made all preparations for packing and moving the vaccines.
- 6. Use properly insulated containers.
- 7. Use a properly placed thermometer in each container.
- 8. Document the storage container temperatures at the time the vaccine is moved (refrigerator/freezer and packing boxes).
- 9. Move vaccine to backup storage according to prearranged plans.
- 10. Make sure vaccine containers are stored properly at the emergency location (varicella in the freezer, others in the refrigerator, adequate circulation, working thermometers, etc.)

Refrigerator Follow-up Procedure:

- 1. Determine when the power went out, as precisely as possible.
- 2. Check refrigerator temperature.
- 3. If the refrigerator temperature exceeds 46°F (8°C), collect data about the length of time the vaccine was stored outside of the correct temperature range, at what temperature it was kept and how many doses are involved.
- 4. Call the Vaccine For Children (VFC) Program at 206.296.4774 for help in assessing the viability of the vaccines. Check with the manufacturer of the individual reagents for help in assessing the viability of the reagents.
- 5. Do not use the vaccines unless the VFC Program or the manufacturer has approved it for use. Do not discard any vaccine without first obtaining approval from the VFC Program. Reagents may be used if their storage has not been compromised. Do not discard any reagents without first obtaining approval from the laboratory director.

Freezer Follow-up Procedure:

- 1. Determine when the power went out, as precisely as possible.
- 2. Check freezer temperature.
- 3. If the freezer temperature exceeds 5°F (-15°C), collect data about the length of time the vaccine was stored outside of the correct temperature range, at what temperature it was kept and how many doses are involved.
- 4. Call VFC Program at 206.296.4774 for help in assessing the viability of the vaccines. Check with the manufacturer of the individual reagents for help in assessing the viability of the reagents.
- 5. Do not use the vaccines unless the VFC Program or the manufacturer has approved it for use. Do not discard any vaccine without first obtaining approval from the VFC Program. Reagents may be used if their storage has not been compromised. Do not discard any reagents without first obtaining approval from the laboratory director.

References:

Responding to Power Outages procedure from the VFC Program

Written: 3/15/08

Revised: Reviewed:

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