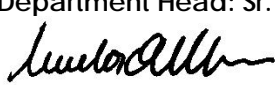
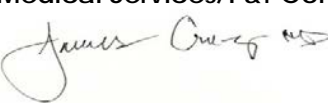


Policy Title: Guidelines for Storage of Vaccines for Children		POLICY #: 70.2.77	
Department Name: Utilization Management		Original Date 3/10	Effective Date 5/19
		Revision Date 12/18	
Department Head: Sr. Director, UM 			Date: 3/21
Medical Services/P&T Committee: (If Applicable) PHP CMO 			Date: 3/21

PURPOSE

To set guidelines and parameters for providers on the proper storage of vaccines for children, in accordance with the Vaccine for Children Program (VFC), as set forth in the Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) program Information Notice: 08-F, New Vaccine for Children Storage Guidelines

POLICY

Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan (Blue Shield Promise) shall ensure correct storage and handling of vaccines among health care providers to maintain the integrity and stability of vaccines administered to patients, to prevent inadvertent administration of improperly stored vaccines, and to avoid unnecessary vaccine wastage.

REQUIREMENTS:

Refrigerator-only units, also known as “freezer-less refrigerators” or “free-standing refrigerator only units” are the required storage units for all refrigerated vaccines.

- A. **Very High-Volume** providers receiving > 10,000 vaccine doses per year are required to store VFC-supplied vaccines in a “pharmacy-grade or biologic grade freezer-less refrigerator” and “pharmacy-grade or biologic grade freezer-only” unit.
- B. **High Volume** providers receiving between 2,000 and 10,000 vaccine doses per year are required to store VFC-supplied vaccines in “refrigerator only” units and “stand-alone freezer” units.
- C. **Medium Volume** providers receiving between 500 and 2,000 vaccine doses per year are strongly encouraged to upgrade their vaccine storage units to a “freezer-less refrigerator” and a “freezer-only” unit. Providers will be allowed to keep an existing household refrigerator/freezer combination storage unit as long as it meets the following specifications:
 - a. Provides adequate useable vaccine storage space to store the largest anticipated vaccine supply
 - b. Maintains required vaccine storage temperatures without significant fluctuations year-round
 - c. Remains frost-free, and free of any visible water or coolant leaks. Cyclic defrost refrigerators are not acceptable

- d. Must be regularly maintained or serviced and without major required repairs within the past two (2) years.
 - e. Doors seal tightly and close properly
 - f. Allows for vaccine storage at least (3) inches from internal walls and away from cold air vents
 - g. Unit must be used exclusively for the storage of vaccines.
- D. **Low Volume** providers receiving less than 500 vaccine doses per year will be allowed to have a combination storage unit if the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) specifications are met.

Dorm-style or household grade “under the counter” units are not acceptable vaccine storage units as they offer poor temperature control.

Unacceptable refrigerator features are units with visible cooling plates or open coiling located at the back wall of the unit; and separately-purchased metal or hard-plastic bins.

PROCEDURE

Blue Shield Promise Health Plan, in collaboration with LA Care and Plan Partners will evaluate provider offices’ compliance with this new requirement during the facility site review visit.

REFERENCES