

RACGP Standards for general practices (5th edition) fact sheet

Cold chain management



What the RACGP Standards say

The RACGP ***Standards for general practices*** (5th edition) (the Standards) requires practices to have at least one team member who has primary responsibility for cold chain management in the practice (refer to Criterion **GP6.1 – Maintaining vaccine potency**).

Cold Chain

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

In order to meet cold chain management requirements, your practice must:

- store vaccines in a purpose-built vaccine refrigerator
- monitor and record the minimum and maximum temperatures of refrigerators in which any vaccine is stored at least twice a day on each day the facility is open (ideally at the beginning and end of the day)
- view and consider the current temperature every time a refrigerator storing a vaccine is opened
- take appropriate action if the temperature is not stable or within the required range.

The National Vaccine Storage Guidelines: Strive for 5 provides more details on cold chain management and is the authoritative guidance in this area.