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No.T.13011/09/2008 -CC&V
Government of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated 24.08.2009

- To,
1. Directors (FW)
All States/UTs
 2. The Officer in-charge,
All Government Medical Store Depot (GMSDs)

Sub: - Guidelines for disposal of unusable vaccines

Sir,

It has been observed that a large quantity of vaccines, which have become unusable due to various reasons (VVM beyond discard point, Freeze sensitive vaccines in frozen condition or the expired vaccines), are being stored in the cold chain (WIF/WIC/ILR/DF) at various stores. This storage is unnecessarily occupying the large cold chain space which results in the shortage of cold chain space for other usable vaccines. The unusable vaccines stored in the cold chain may be confused with those containing potent vaccines with the chances of issuing discardable vaccines accidentally which may cause AEFI.

Whenever a vaccine becomes unusable it is not required to be stored in the cold chain and you are advised as under:

1. As soon as any vaccine becomes unusable, mark the vaccine box/vial as "Discarded vaccine" with signature of store in charge.
2. Take out the vaccine from the cold chain and transfer it to the area which are safe and out of reach from the un-authorized person.
3. Entry of the discarded vaccines along with their name of the manufacturer and batch numbers should be made in the stock register immediately.
4. Take necessary action for investigations and disposal of the discarded vaccines as per laid down guidelines by the state regulatory and Pollution Control Authorities.
5. It is pertinent to mention here that the "Biologicals" fall under the category of bio-hazardous material as far as their disposal is concerned. The Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998 deals with disposal of it. Also refer to CPCB(Central Pollution Control Board) guidelines on waste disposal.

These guidelines may be strictly complied with.

Yours faithfully,


(Dr. Naresh Goel)
Assistant Commissioner (UIP)

Copy for information to:-

1. Secretary (Family Welfare) of all States/UTs
2. Addl. Director General (Stores), R.K. Puram New Delhi
3. SEPIOs of all States/UTs for necessary action.
4. Cold Chain Officers of all States/UTs for necessary action.