

P47: Maintaining the cold chain in the distribution of vaccines in Matosinhos' Local Health Unit

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Introduction: The Pharmaceutical Services of the Matosinhos' Local Health Unit (ULSM, EPE) are in charge for the storage, distribution and transportation of vaccines for Health Services in Matosinhos, in order to fulfill the Portuguese Immunization Schedule (PIS) for the children of the county. Vaccines comprising the PIS were approved because of their quality, efficacy and safety; but it depends on how those are transported, stored and managed.

Objectives: Present the strategies adopted by ULSM, EPE to prevent breaks in the Cold Chain internal circuit.

Materials and Methods: Work performed by analyzing data obtained by Bibliographic Research and practical evidence.

Results and Discussion: In ULSM, EPE are used some strategies to safeguard the correct functioning of the Cold Chain, that were tested to fulfill the specifications of the Cool Chain. Such as loggers for monitoring temperature during transportation, placement of vaccines in thermal bags in a provision that allows tolerate the differences in temperature as long as possible and, placement careful of the ice pack in each of the bags. Regardless of the transportation route, the time spent on the process should always be as short as possible.

Conclusion: The proper functioning of all links of the Cold Chain is critical, to assure the complete efficacy of vaccines. The transportation is the link more proper to break. That is why the withdrawal of the ice packs from the freezer 30 minutes earlier from the utilization is so important. As well as, the live vaccines are placed near to the ice pack, because they can tolerate temperatures below 2° C, instead of the other vaccines that cannot be freeze. Verification in the temperature control supports the transportation mode.

References

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