

QUICKIE DOS AND DON'TS

DOS

- Do give full doses of vaccine; partial doses are not approved by the FDA or the CDC and **DO NOT COUNT.**
- Do consider 28 days as 1 month; may be utilized for 4 months or less. Over 4 months should be from calendar date to calendar date. For example, 5 months = January 8th to June 8th.
- The 4-day "grace" period applies to all ages, vaccines (except rabies and Twinrix® on accelerated schedule) and interval minimums (except MMR and Varicella). If MMR and varicella vaccines have not been given on the same day they must be separated by 28 days with NO grace period.
- Do store vaccines as appropriate immediately upon receipt.
- Do check for RIGHT vaccine, dose, route, site, needle size, preparation, age of patient and interval between doses.
- Do maintain varicella containing vaccines at an average temperature of 5°F or lower (-15°C or lower) and use within 30 minutes of reconstitution. Unreconstituted vaccine may be held up to 72 hours at 35° to 46°F (1.7° to 7.8°C) prior to administration, but must then be discarded if not used.
- Do check refrigerator and freezer temperatures on arrival at the clinic and at clinic closing with initials. (Display on refrigerator door acceptable limits and written procedure for response to unacceptable temperatures.)
- Do maintain storage requirements (cold for all vaccines; protection from light for MMR and varicella containing vaccines after reconstitution) for any vaccine removed from refrigerator.
- Vaccines that have been drawn into syringes should be discarded at the end of the clinic day, with the exception of varicella containing vaccines, which should be discarded 30 minutes after reconstitution.
- Do delay administration of live vaccines if patient has recently received any IG preparations or blood products.
- Do give varicella vaccine to susceptible contacts of pregnant and/or immunocompromised persons.
- Do have Epinephrine Hydrochloride Solution (1:1000) and other appropriate agents and equipment available for immediate use in case an anaphylactic or acute hypersensitivity reaction to vaccine occurs.

- Do provide appropriate VIS(s) to parent or guardian and document.
<http://www.immunize.org/vis/>
- Contact Vaccine manufactures if you experience a temperature excursion to verify efficacy of vaccine effected by out of range temperatures.

DON'TS

- Do not routinely give vaccines in the buttocks to anyone due to potential for poor absorption and sciatic nerve injury.
- Do not store vaccines in the door of the refrigerator or freezer, or in the vegetable bins, on the floor, next to the walls, or near the cold air outlet from the freezer.
- Do not give vaccine prepared/drawn up by someone else. It is discouraged by the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) at CDC.
- Do not reconstitute varicella containing vaccines more than **30 minutes** before administration. Do not refreeze varicella vaccine in any form.
- Do not give live immunizations for one month after high dose steroid therapy (20mg or 2mg/kg/day) given for more than two weeks.
- Do not administer a tuberculosis skin test for at least 4 weeks after administration of live vaccines.
- Do not restart any immunization series because of delayed intervals.
- Do not use any diluent other than that provided by manufacturer. The dose must be repeated if wrong diluent is used.