

2 June 2015

Dear Service Provider

Clarification of the cold chain requirements for the RFP dated 8 May 2015

PHARMAC has been contacted by a potential responder to the request for proposals for the supply of national vaccine storage and distribution services issued on 8th May 2015 requesting clarification of the cold chain requirements expected to be provided by the successful supplier.

The following questions were asked:

How many end to end monitors need to be dispatched in a 12 month period?

It is estimated that there would be a requirement for approximately 5,000 end to end monitors to be dispatched in any 12 month period. Please note that in Appendix Three we have asked for quotes for 1,000 data loggers to be placed with vaccines and 10,000 data loggers to be placed with vaccines. If there is a significant break point in the number of monitors purchased/used at a number different to these two we would be happy to consider it.

What are the requirements for the cold chain monitors – do they need to record every minute/every hour or do they just need to be able to show that there have or have not been any excursions during transit from the bulk storage depot to the time the vaccine is used by the vaccinator?

The monitors are intended to report whether or not there has been an excursion and the extent of the excursion – i.e. a freeze; between 10-25°; 25-35° or >35°. Where an excursion took place is recorded on the audit card. Monitors that, at a minimum, are capable of recording this level of activity would be acceptable.

Who purchases the monitors – PHARMAC or the supplier of the service?

The successful supplier of the storage and distribution services would purchase the monitors.

What is the most likely length of time between being dispatched from the 'bulk store' to the vaccine being used for the immunisation of a patient?

In general deliveries between the current authorised agent and the distribution branches are overnight or at the most are two days and the same applies to deliveries ex distributor to vaccinators. On average the distributor holds 6 weeks stock and vaccinators anywhere from 2 to 4 weeks although some packs of 10 may be held at vaccinator level for longer than 4 weeks.

Will the artwork for the cold chain monitor cards be supplied by PHARMAC or does it need to be created by the distributor?

The artwork for the monitor cards can be supplied by PHARMAC.

Is there any preference for a particular brand of monitor?

PHARMAC has no preference for any brand of monitor

If re-usable will they be returned to the distributor for re-use in other shipments?

Yes, if the monitors that are used are re-useable PHARMAC would ensure that they are returned for re-use.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards



Christine Chapman
Senior Therapeutic Group Manager