

National Health Service in Scotland
Management ExecutiveSt. Andrew's House
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Dear Colleague

**ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE
SUPPLY OF CHILDHOOD AND SPECIALISED
VACCINES AND IMMUNOLOGICAL PRODUCTS****Summary**

1. This circular draws attention to a report on the Organisation and Management of the Supply of Childhood and Specialised Vaccines and immunological Products in the NHS in Scotland (copy attached).

Action

2. Health boards are asked to note the recommendations made in the report and to take action where appropriate.

Background

3. The Government and health care professions recognise that immunisation programmes make a significant contribution to the maintenance of public health and the attached report contains comprehensive guidance. Implementation of the recommendations contained in this report should assure the adequacy of the vaccination programme and the cost effectiveness of the treatment provided to patients.

4. To maximise the potential benefits of immunisation, immunological products must be available when and where required and must be potent at the time of use. The report therefore recommends that the CSA Supplies Division specify in purchasing contracts the measures which should be adopted by suppliers to ensure the maximum potency of vaccine at the time of delivery.

5. The recommendations of the report have particular relevance to health boards, which have a statutory responsibility for the procurement of certain vaccines, and NHS Trust hospitals which are contracted to purchase and store vaccines and distribute them to General Practitioners. Health boards are asked to draw to the attention of GPs Appendices 7, 8 and 9 of the report, which offer guidance on storage conditions. A draft schedule is provided at Appendix 1 for health boards to use in advising GPs on local sources of vaccine.

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5. Yellow Fever immunisation is regarded as a matter for private consideration between patient and doctor. However, the report notes that an increase in the number of Yellow Fever Immunisation Centres has resulted in increased amounts of vaccine being stored, with a lower rate of turnover. Recommendation 1.4.2 proposes that the number of Yellow Fever Immunisation Centres be re-examined with a view to minimising the risk of sub-potent vaccines being used.

7. Recommendation 1.4.3 refers to arrangements for the storage and supply of products and antidotes which are required only infrequently in response to emergency situations. The Department would wish to be consulted on any proposals which would lead to a change in location.



W SCOTT