

Cold Chain International Regulations in HMC

AIM: To improve the quality of the cold chain products (vaccines and other sensitive-temperature medicine) through the supply chain operation.

PROBLEM:

- Cold chain products (vaccines and other temperature sensitive products) are sensitive biological molecules that lose their potency and effectiveness if they are exposed to temperature outside the required temp range of 2°C to 8°C during transportation and storage.
- Failure to adhere to cold chain requirements may reduce cold chain products (eg:vaccines) potency resulting ٠ in lack of protection against vaccine preventable disease.

INTERVENTION:

- Creation of HMC-Cold Chain guideline for storing and distribution for vaccines and other temperaturesensitive products comply with the World Health Organization, European Commission, U.S Pharmacopeia guidelines and the Joint Commission Medication Management Standards.
- Perform cold chain inspection Training for the receiving section staff.
- Installation of wireless temperature monitoring system in the warehouse facility.
- Implementation of HMC's Cold chain guidelines for good distribution practice.
- Monitoring and updating the guidelines to accommodate any changes in the international practice of cold ٠ chain.

RESULTS:

- Availability of well establish cold chain guideline for storing and distribution.
- Attaining 100% awareness among the receiving section staff.
- Decreased the wastage of cold chain products during the supply chain process. •
- Increasing the level of confidence among the cold chain Personnel.
- Automated temperature control data now being received including alerts if the required temperature has been compromised.
- 80% of cold chain products suppliers complied with HMC- cold chain guidelines. ٠



TEAM:

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Conclusion:

- Compliance with the cold chain guideline will ensure the supply of vaccines of a good quality, appropriate efficacy and high safety profile.
- Reducing wastage of vaccines will save on costs and ensure stock availability during the immunization programs.

Next step

- To perform warehouse temperature mapping
- Extending the wireless temperature monitoring system to cover all the warehouse facilities in Qatar.
- Implementing Radio Frequency devices (RFID) for tracking products during distribution.