

# Protocols for immunisation using Multi Dose Vials (MDV)



Record the date of opening on the MDV using permanent marker.

Use a new drawing up needle for extracting each new batch of doses. Use a new syringe to withdraw each dose.



## Do not use MDV and contact State/Territory authority for advice on how to discard if -

- Sterility is breached
- Cold chain is breached (outside 2-8 degrees Celsius)
- Expiry date reached
- More than one (1) week since date of first opening or maximum allowed time if longer

## Procedure for preparing multiple doses

If MDV opened previously check expiry date and opening date - do not use if beyond recommended time for use.

One person should prepare the MDV dose extraction in an environment free from distraction and interruption:



1. Wash hands and prepare a clean working surface area
2. Assess the number of doses required to be drawn up for the planned immunisation session:
  - Collect correct syringe size, administration needles and a 23 gauge, 25 mm drawing up needle
  - Alcohol swabs if using an already opened MDV
  - Have a clean, covered and light proof plastic container appropriately labelled to store prepared vaccines. See *The National Vaccine Storage Guidelines Strive for 5* (ref Immunise Australia Program [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au)).
3. If drawing up from an MDV already opened, wipe the rubber bung of the MDV with 70 percent alcohol swab and let dry.
4. Insert a **new sterile drawing up** needle for each new batch of dose(s)
5. Avoid touching the needle and rubber bung on the vaccine vial when drawing up the vaccine (aseptic technique)
6. Draw up the required dose into separate **new sterile syringes**, disconnect the syringe from the drawing up needle and connect to a **new sterile administration needle**. Place into the plastic container which should be marked with date and time of preparation and dose.
7. Remove drawing up needle, and if contents of the MDV are not all used, refrigerate the MDV in the monitored 2–8 degrees Celsius vaccine refrigerator (for up to the maximum allowed time)



8. Filled syringes need to be stored in a light proof plastic container at 2-8 degrees Celsius according to cold chain principles - *The National Vaccine Storage Guidelines Strive for 5* (ref Immunise Australia Program [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au))
9. The **drawing up needle** must be discarded after each drawing up session. It is to be placed in a sharps container in line with the RACGP Safe Sharps Management (ref RACGP Infection Control Guidelines).



## Staff should complete drawing up batches of doses from MDV before moving to injection procedure.

### Procedure for vaccination encounter:

1. Follow routine process for injection of intramuscular (IM) or subcutaneous (SC) vaccines as per Australian Immunisation Handbook 9th Edition page 375.
2. This includes obtaining consent, have anaphylaxis kit available, observe patients for 15 minutes post vaccination and report all adverse events.

If the vaccine has been exposed to a cold chain breach, do not discard but isolate vaccines, inform other staff and label them 'do not use'. Keep the vaccines stored at 2–8 degrees Celsius and contact state or territory health authorities for advice.

<b>Western Australia</b>	08 9321 1312
<b>Victoria</b>	1300 882 008
<b>Tasmania</b>	1800 671 738
<b>South Australia</b>	08 8226 7177
<b>Queensland</b>	07 3328 9888
<b>New South Wales</b>	Contact your local public health unit - find under Health in the White pages.
<b>Northern Territory</b>	Darwin 08 8982 1000 Alice Springs 08 8950 4800
<b>Australia Capital Territory</b>	02 6205 2300

