The 7 Do's and Don'ts of Vaccine Storage

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Vaccines make a substantial contribution to global health. It works by training the immune system to recognize and fight off the targeted pathogens such as viruses or bacteria. It gives us the immunity to avoid contracting a disease. To guarantee the viability of these temperature-sensitive products, it is vital to know their proper storage and preservation from the time they are manufactured until they are administered.

Here are some Do's and Don'ts of Vaccine Storage:

USE A PURPOSE-BUILT COLD STORAGE

It is highly recommended to purchase or use a laboratory-grade refrigerator and freezer to avoid unexpected equipment failures that can lead to sample spoilage and wastage.

DO NOT STORE FOOD

Do not place food or beverages in the same storage unit as the vaccines. Never use your cold storage equipment in the laboratory as storage for products intended for consumption.

FIRST TO EXPIRE, FIRST OUT

Always follow proper sample arrangement and stock vaccines according to the expiration date. The First to Expire, First Out or FEFO, is an inventory management method that allows for products with the shortest shelf-life to be distributed or used first.

PROPER LABELING AND ARRANGEMENT

Arrange vaccines and diluents in rows and allow space between each row to promote airflow. Avoid overcrowding and arrange all products properly.

EQUIP YOUR COLD CHAIN WITH DATALOGGERS

Digital data logger allows vaccine providers to set alarms when there are temperature fluctuations. It also provides more accurate monitoring as compared to chart recorders and secures the vaccine's storage conditions.

STORE AT APPROPRIATE TEMPERATURES

Exposure to temperatures outside required ranges may result in reduced vaccine potency and increased risk of vaccine-preventable diseases.

NEVER STORE LOOSE VIALS

Always store vaccines in their original packaging until ready for use. Loose vials may increase the risk of administration errors and vaccines' exposure to light.

Vaccines save lives. Do your part and store them properly.

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