



## Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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**Submitting author:** Dr Alfred KWONG

**Post title:** Consultant, QMH, HKWC

### **Cold Chain Management among GOPCs in Hong Kong West Cluster – an important milestone to standardize the practice.**

*Kwong SK(1), Fung F(1), Leung A(1), Lee LL(1), Ho C(1), Ko WK(1), Tsui WS(1)  
(1)Department of Family Medicine & Primary Health Care, Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong West Cluster*

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#### **Introduction**

Refrigerated products at clinics need to be handled in a manner that ensures their quality would not be adversely affected. A comprehensive guideline of Cold Chain Management has been adopted to standardize the clinic practice, temperature monitoring and contingency plan for cold chain breach among GOPCs of Hong Kong West Cluster.

#### **Objectives**

- To standardize the cold chain practice among all GOPCs in HKWC.
- To provide guidance on the temperature monitoring procedure of pharmaceutical refrigerators in GOPCs
- To enhance medication safety and provision of quality care to patients.
- To minimize incidents associated with handling of refrigerated products

#### **Methodology**

The Cold Chain Management guideline was developed by the department project team members in 2015. To prepare for its implementation, the standardized drug fridges, temperature monitoring devices and related equipment were equipped in each of the GOPCs. The five phases of implementation included:

- Development of training packages (2 months)
- Training and delivering tools to nursing staffs (2 months)
- Demonstration of daily practice and workflow for cold chain breach (1 month)
- Rolling out of project among all GOPCs (1 month)
- Evaluation – The compliance audit on Cold Chain Management was conducted in Nov 2016
- Ongoing enhancement measures including data loggers / pharmaceutical refrigerators maintenance and training to new staff (Nov 2016 to Dec 2017)

#### **Result**

The compliance audit had been conducted among 5 GOPCs of HKWC. The

implementation among all clinics was smooth. All clinics are equipped with the standardized equipment and clinic staff are well trained on the Cold Chain Management, with 100% compliance on refrigerated products storage practice, daily temperature monitoring, documentation, counter-checking and practice on reporting of temperature excursion.

The project provides guidance on requirements and maintenance on the storage equipment, and the temperature monitoring procedure of pharmaceutical refrigerators in GOPCs (HKWC) to maintain the cold chain and safeguard the quality of vaccine and medication. The medication safety and provision of quality care to patients has been enhanced and associated incidents have been minimized. The suggested appropriate response to medication incidents and actions to be taken in response to cold storage breach situation of the pharmaceutical refrigerators has been established.