

# National Cold Chain Audit (NCCA) FAQs

## Overall

**What?** The **National Cold Chain Audit (NCCA)** monitors the cold chain of National Immunisation Schedule vaccines from the ProPharma regional stores until immunisation providers have administered all doses in the vaccine box or for up to two weeks, whichever occurs first. IMAC is now responsible for the management of the NCCA on behalf of the Ministry of Health.

Temperature loggers will be used to monitor around 10% of ProPharma vaccine deliveries to immunisation providers.

**Why?** To set up an external auditable national cold chain monitoring system, to monitor the delivery and storage of vaccines and to provide information that may reduce vaccine wastage

**When?** From November 2016

**How?** A Temprecord ECONOLOG logger will be randomly added to vaccine orders at ProPharma sites when vaccine is packed. The logger will be checked when vaccine is unpacked, at the provider, to see if it has remained between 2 and 8 °C during transportation and then the logger will be downloaded on return to IMAC to review the storage temperature ranges at the provider level.

## The ECONOLOG loggers

**What do the loggers look like?**



Dimensions: L 129mm x W 73.5mm x D 14mm

**How will providers know how to check the temperature during transport?**

A yellow instruction leaflet is provided with the logger which states:

Determine the temperature status of the logger by checking which light is flashing (**GREEN** or **RED**)

**What do the flashing red and green lights indicate?** NB. There is one flash every 10 seconds either green or red

**GREEN Within limits** light is flashing indicates the temperature has remained between 2 and 8 °C

**RED Out of limits** light is flashing indicates the temperature has NOT remained between 2 and 8 °C

## The process

**When are the loggers attached to the vaccine?**

At ProPharma when the vaccine is packed, along with instructions and a prepaid CourierPost return envelope

**When are the loggers checked to see if the temperature has been out of limits during transport?**

When the vaccine is unpacked at the provider. This is the only time that the loggers are required to be checked by the provider.

**How long do the loggers stay in provider fridges?**

If the temperature has remained between 2 and 8 °C during transport, the logger is to remain attached to the vaccine box. The logger is returned the earliest date of:

- When all the vaccine in the box is used OR
- Two weeks after arriving at provider

### How are loggers returned after being in provider fridges?

The loggers are returned to The Immunisation Advisory Centre via CourierPost using the pre-addressed, prepaid envelope that is provided with the loggers.

### What if a provider fails to return a logger?

IMAC will contact the local Immunisation Coordinator and ask that they contact the provider to arrange for the logger to be returned to IMAC. ProPharma will be advising IMAC which providers received a logger with their vaccine order. Return of NCCA loggers to IMAC is likely to be a criteria within the Cold Chain Accreditation framework.

## A cold chain excursion during delivery period

**What do providers do for a Red Out of limits situation?** The red light flashing indicates that the temperature has NOT remained between 2 and 8 °C.

The instruction leaflet sent with logger states:

1. **Quarantine all vaccine in the delivery in your vaccine fridge. DO NOT USE**
2. Call your local Immunisation Coordinator as soon as possible (contact details are in your Cold Chain Management Policy). If you are unavailable contact your coordinator, please call IMAC on ph 09 923 2075. You will be given advice on how to proceed

### What is the process if the Immunisation Coordinator speaks with the provider?

- Immunisation Coordinator will determine if quarantined vaccine can remain in provider's fridge (this will depend on the space available to the practice and their need to reorder). If not the Immunisation Coordinator will assist the provider to find an alternative vaccine fridge to store the vaccine until the logger is checked and the vaccine potency is determined.
- Immunisation Coordinator will request the reference from the front of the CourierPost envelope provided with the vaccine order.
- Immunisation Coordinator will contact IMAC (Erin Gillette, ph 09 9232075) and supply provider's name, address, phone number(s) and the CourierPost envelope reference.
- Immunisation Coordinator will direct the provider to follow the instructions under *When it's time to post the temperature logger back* (in Section B of instructions) to get the logger back to IMAC for downloading.

Physical Address: Erin Gillette, Immunisation Advisory Centre, University of Auckland, Tamaki Campus, Building 731, Level 3, Room 315, Gate 1, 261 Morrin Road, Saint Johns, Auckland 1072

- IMAC staff will download the logger and liaise with Regional Immunisation Advisors and/or IMAC National Manager to determine whether quarantined vaccine can be used.
- Regional Immunisation Advisors will liaise with Immunisation Coordinator re the results from the logger and the other actions that may be required.

## Potential problems

### What to do if no lights are flashing on logger?

The instructions sent with the vaccine order state: *In the unlikely event that no lights are flashing, treat as RED* ie. treat as a cold chain excursion and quarantine ALL VACCINE in the delivery in the vaccine fridge.

### Can loggers get wet?

Yes, they are water resistant and designed for use in damp/wet environments.

### What to do if the provider has lost their CourierPost return envelope and rings their Immunisation Coordinator?

Email Erin Gillette [e.gillette@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:e.gillette@auckland.ac.nz) with the provider's postal details and one will be posted out to the provider.

## Further information

### Who should be contacted for more information?

Your Regional Immunisation Advisor.