

Security Alert

Attention Health Professionals

Prevent the exchange of flu vaccine vials!

- Influenza vaccine vials and similar to other refrigerated drug vials stored under refrigeration in the refrigerator such as insulin. This similarity can contribute to change at the time of preparation and vaccine administration.
- ISMP Brazil presents recommendations for preventing these vaccine administration errors. The main objective is to deploy barriers that hinder, reduce or eliminate the possibility of vial exchanges.

Secure Storage

- Store the vaccine and other medicines in separate refrigerators
- If the vaccine is stored in the same refrigerator as other medicines, place them in different boxes and shelves.
- Insulin should always be stored in a different area; it is a potentially dangerous drug

Use Warning Labels

- Vaccines and insulin in and out of the refrigerator should be identified with a warning label to differentiate them. It is also important to differentiate one vaccine from the others.

Check before the preparation and administration

- Read the label carefully before starting the preparation of the vaccine.
- Ask the patient / companion to confirm the vaccine bottle with the professional responsible for their preparation and administration.

Inform health professionals

- Disclose the risks of exchange between the vials of vaccines and insulin.

To learn more about packaging safety and labeling read the document IMSN “Position Statement on Safer Design of Vaccines Packaging and Labelling” prepared with the participation of the ISMP available in Brazil at: <http://www.intmedsafe.net/imsn-advocacy/imsn-papers/safer-packaging-and-labelling/>