Open Vial Policy

ENSURE SAFETY  
PRESERVE LIFE

Open Vial Policy applies only for DPT, TT, Hepatitis B, Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV), Inactivated Poliovirus Vaccine (IPV) & Liquid Pentavalent.

- Expiry date has not passed.
- Vaccines are stored strictly under appropriate temperature range both during transportation & storage at cold chain point.
- Vaccine vial septum has not submerged in water or contaminated in any way.
- Aseptic technique has been used to withdraw all doses.
- Vaccine vial monitor (VVM), has not reached discard point.

Open vials should never be submerged in water (e.g. Water accumulated in vaccine carrier) as it increases the risk of contamination of the vial septum.

Ensure all open vials have recorded date and time of opening.

- At the end of the session, all open vials should be returned to Cold Chain Point.
- At Cold Chain Point, open vials should be segregated into:
  - Re-usable DPT, TT, Hep B, OPV, IPV and Pentavalent vaccine vials fulfilling the above mentioned criteria.
  - Non-reusable open vials of Measles, BCG & JE
- In case of any AEFI reported, all open vials (usable & non-usable) should not be discarded or used. All open vials should be stored under proper cold chain till investigation is complete.

All vials (open or unopened) should be transported in a zipper bag in the vaccine carrier and recorded in the stock register.

Well-sealed conditioned ice packs should be used in vaccine carriers and water should not be allowed to accumulate where vaccine vials and diluents are stored.

Does not apply to Measles, BCG, Japanese Encephalitis (JE) vaccines.