OSCE checklist for community health nursing: cold chain

OSCE checklist for community health nursing: a vaccine cold chain check establishes whether stock has been stored and transported within the product and service requirements before it can be used. Use this original practice checklist with your course guidance and supervised skills teaching.

Numbered practice steps

1. Confirm the session and stock identity. Introduce your student role, explain the check and obtain consent from the responsible practitioner to carry it out. Perform hand hygiene before handling stock or equipment.
2. Identify the vaccine stock, delivery record and responsible practitioner. Check the storage instructions and the service procedure before handling the supply.
3. Review the temperature record and the monitoring device for missing entries, alerts or an interruption to power. Do not invent a normal reading for a gap.
4. Inspect packaging, expiry details, batch information and placement in the dedicated storage area. Keep stock organised so that it can be traced and rotated.
5. If storage conditions may have been breached, stop use of affected stock. Separate and clearly label it while maintaining appropriate storage and seeking specialist advice.
6. Record the concern, affected products and advice received. Tell the session lead whether replacement stock or a change to the planned session is needed.
7. Close by checking the responsible practitioner understands the stock status and next action. Clean hands and equipment as appropriate, document the checks and hand over unresolved storage concerns.

Common omissions

A fridge door that feels cold does not prove safe storage. Discarding stock before advice may prevent investigation. Mixing affected and unaffected batches makes traceability harder.

Try an original practice task

Use a blank temperature log with a missing entry. Explain what you can establish, what remains uncertain and who must decide whether the stock can be used.

These steps support learning, rather than authorising independent treatment. Follow your school's task and local policy; ask for help when a decision exceeds your competence.

Related nursing practice

Return to community nursing OSCE practice or use the full checklist directory.

Common questions

Is this a school marking sheet?

No. This is an original learning checklist. Your school sets the task and assessment criteria.

Can I print this checklist?

Yes. Use the PDF download on this page for practice.

Sources

- NMC: The Code
- UKHSA: storage, distribution and disposal of vaccines, Green Book chapter 3

Checked 2026-11-13. Fees and rules change, so confirm them with the regulator before you book.