

# Medical Safety Information

Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency



No. 40 October 2013

## Precautions in the Handling of Vaccines

### POINT Key points for safe use

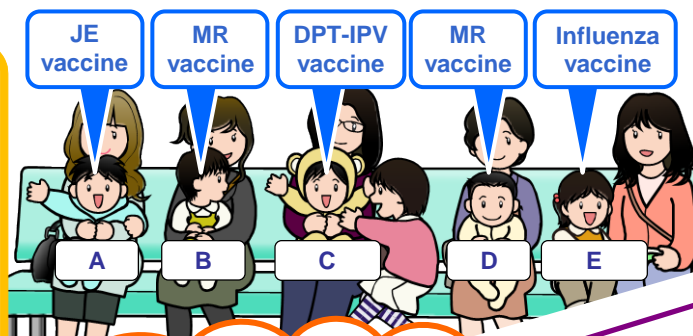
**(Case 1)** A measles-rubella (MR) vaccine was mistakenly administrated to the recipient, instead of the Japanese encephalitis (JE) vaccine due to a medical staff assumption.

#### 1 Vaccine recipient mix-up

- In advance, ensure the 5Rs, and ask the vaccine recipient or his/her guardian which vaccine he/she will receive.

#### Pre-vaccination 5Rs

- 1 Right Drug
- 2 Right Dose
- 3 Right Route [Subcutaneous or Intramuscular]
- 4 Right Time
- 5 Right Recipient



MR vaccine for A

JE vaccine for B

- 6 Ask the vaccine recipient or his/her guardian directly about which vaccine he/she will receive!

A number of people may visit to receive a specific vaccine at once depending on the time of year. In haste or based on assumptions, vaccine recipients have been mixed up.

**(Case 2)** A number of people were at the clinic to receive vaccines. The DPT-IPV (4 combined) vaccine was administered by mistake instead of the DPT (3 combined) vaccine due to a similar package color.

## 2 Vaccine product mix-up

### Examples of vaccine products with similar appearance or color

#### DPT-IPV (4 Combined) Vaccine



Adsorbed Diphtheria-Purified Pertussis  
-Tetanus-Inactivated Polio  
(Sabin Strain) Combined Vaccine



Quattrovac

#### DPT (3 Combined) Vaccine



The Japanese Pharmacopoeia  
Adsorbed Diphtheria-Purified  
Pertussis-Tetanus Combined Vaccine



DPT "KAKETSUKEN"  
Syringe PF

#### Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine



Freeze-Dried, Cell Culture-  
Derived Japanese Encephalitis  
Vaccine (Inactivated)

ENCEVAC

#### Influenza HA (Seasonal) Vaccine



Influenza HA  
Vaccine

INFLUENZA HA  
VACCINE "BIKEN"

#### Mumps Vaccine



Freeze-Dried Live  
Attenuated Mumps  
Vaccine

Freeze-Dried Live Attenuated  
Mumps Virus Vaccine  
"Kitasatodaiichisankyo"

There are different vaccine products  
with very similar appearance or label color.  
Please pay attention and check before use.



Colors of vaccine product labels and containers

















An identical color is used for the label and container of vaccine products of the same type. **Make sure to check the label** to avoid mix-up!

Colors of vaccine product containers (for routine vaccination)

Excerpt from FY2013 version:

Written and edited by The Review Committee for Vaccination Guidelines

Published by Public Foundation of the Vaccination Research Center

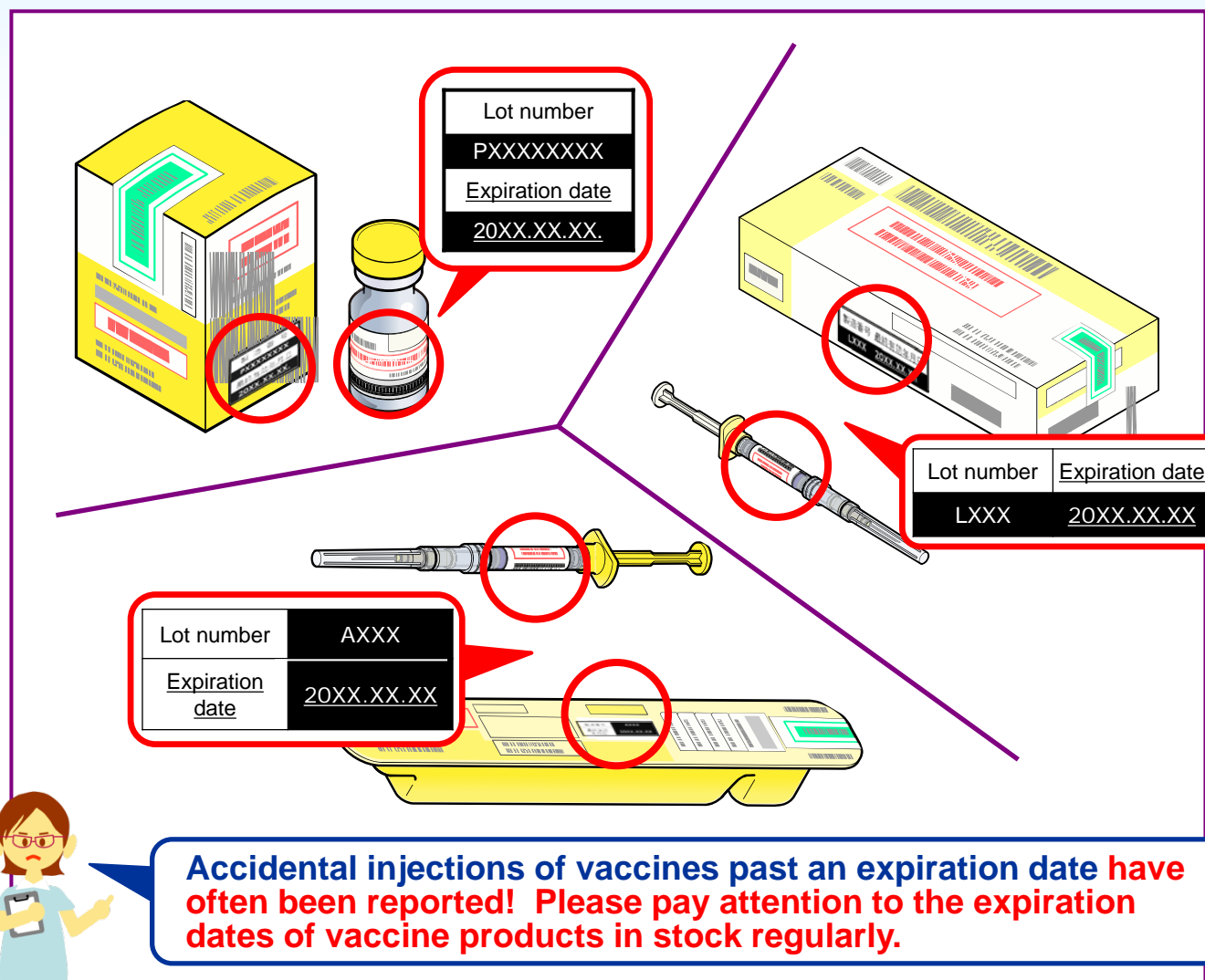
|   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <b>Tuberculosis (BCG)</b><br><br><b>Blue</b>                           | <b>Measles</b><br><br><b>Orange</b>                                       | <b>Rubella</b><br><br><b>Pink</b>  | <b>MR</b><br>(Combined Measles-Rubella)<br><br><b>Creamy brown</b>    |
| <b>Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type b)</b><br><br><b>Bamboo green</b> | <b>Japanese Encephalitis</b><br><br><b>Light purple</b>                  | <b>Pneumococcus</b><br><br><b>Blue</b>   | <b>DT</b><br>(Combined Diphtheria-Tetanus)<br><br><b>Grass green</b> |
| <b>Inactivated Poliomyelitis</b><br><br><b>White</b>                 | <b>Bivalent HPV (Human Papillomavirus)</b><br><br><b>Orange</b>         | <b>DPT</b><br>(Combined Diphtheria-Pertussis-Tetanus)<br><br><b>Yellow</b>        |  |
| <b>Influenza HA (seasonal)</b><br><br><b>Aqua</b>                     | <b>Quadrivalent HPV (Human Papillomavirus)</b><br><br><b>Cool green</b> | <b>DPT-IPV (Combined Diphtheria-Pertussis-Tetanus-Polio)</b><br><br><b>Beige</b> |  |

Note) Colors of active products may slightly differ from the pictures shown.

(Case 3) Vaccines past an expiration date were accidentally injected.

### 3 Accidental use of vaccines past an expiration date

- **Make sure to check the expiration date before vaccination.**



#### About this information

\* PMDA Medical Safety Information is issued by the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency for the purpose of providing healthcare providers with clearer information from the perspective of promoting the safe use of pharmaceuticals and medical devices. The information presented here has been compiled, with the assistance of expert advice, from cases collected as Medical Accident Information Reports by the Japan Council for Quality Health Care, and collected as Adverse Drug Reaction and Malfunction Reports in accordance with the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law.

\* We have tried to ensure the accuracy of this information at the time of its compilation but do not guarantee its accuracy in the future.

\* This information is not intended to impose constraints on the discretion of healthcare professionals or to impose obligations and responsibility on them, but is provided as a support to promote the safe use of pharmaceuticals and medical devices by healthcare professionals.