

Purpose-Built Vaccine Fridges

**Manufacturers approved by the Quality Care Pharmacy Program of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia
for use in accredited pharmacies and available in NSW**

Manufacturer	Contact Details	Models	Capacity	Approx. Cost (incl GST)
Rollex Lec Vaccine Refrigerators Rollex Group (Australia) Pty Ltd	Ph: 02 9457 6144 Fax: 02 9457 6516 Mobile: 0416171814 www.rollexgroup.com.au	PE/PG 502 PE/PG 902 PE/PG 1202	142L 277L 350L	\$2611 (solid door); \$3111 (glass door) \$3313 (solid door); \$3865 (glass door) \$4317 (solid door); \$4725 (glass door) * Prices include delivery and surge protector
Quirks Refrigeration: Medisafe Refrigerator	Ph: 1800 804 627 Ph: (02) 8805 2500 www.quirksrefrigeration.com.au	Medisafe models: CTVR88; FKG311; FKG410	120L 281L 351L	\$2600 (glass door) \$3100 (glass door) \$3300 (glass door) * Delivery is \$100 extra
Thermoline L+M Pharmacy Refrigerators	Ph: 9604 3911 Fax: 9725 1706 www.thermoline.com.au	TEPR 140-1 TEPR 250-1 TEPR 400-1	140L 250L 400L	\$3217.50 (glass & solid door) \$3698.20 (glass & solid door) \$3905.00 (glass & solid door)
Skope Industries Ltd	Ph: 1800 121 535 Fax: 1800 121 533 www.skope.com.au	B170-PH B310-PH	170L 310L	\$2744.50 (glass door) \$3195.50 (glass door)
ICS Pacific	Ph: 1800 664 664 Fax: (03) 9706 6556	G130L Medical	130L	\$1457.50 (glass door)

Prices current at February 2006

Purpose-built Vaccine Fridges: Worth the \$\$?

By Gillian Minto (Sutherland Division of General Practice)

Data logging has continued to demonstrate that domestic fridges often do not comply with the recommended 2-8°C temperature range for optimal vaccine storage and there is therefore the potential to be giving patients impotent vaccines which consequently do not protect them.

The benefits of storing vaccines in a purpose-built vaccine fridge are:

- The fridges are programmed to operate between 2 - 8 °C therefore vaccines are stored in optimal conditions and should be optimally potent at vaccination
- Less chance of “cold chain failure” – a headache for you and your staff and an inconvenience for patients.
- The uniform cabinet temperature allowing storage on all shelves (unlike domestic fridges where only the upper and middle shelves are suitable) i.e. for the same dimensions of fridge, you get greater capacity
- Many models have glass doors allowing easy viewing of vaccines and shorter door opening times
- External temperature display with minimum and maximum features
- Alarms when minimum or maximum temperatures are breached
- Some models have in-built data loggers for continuous monitoring
- Automatic defrost
- Optional lockable door

It can only be a matter of time before GP accreditation requires practices to have purpose-built vaccine fridges to ensure vaccination with optimal vaccines. The Pharmacy Guild currently requires accredited pharmacists to have such vaccine fridges and it has produced a list of models that have been tested and meet their Quality Care Pharmacy standards. The table opposite shows a range of manufacturers and models available in NSW taken from the Pharmacy Guild list.

The size of fridge you require is obviously determined by the amount of stock you require to meet patient demand (-remember the flu season). Although all shelves on these models can be used, it is still important not to over-stock them so that air can circulate between packs of vaccine.

Why should we purchase these fridges? To ensure your patients are receiving vaccines in optimal condition and to give you and your staff peace of mind in achieving this.

How can we afford these fridges? According to the HIC, the General Practice Immunisation Incentive scheme's *average* SIP in the 2002-2003 financial year was \$153 per GP per month. The *average* outcome payment was \$917 per practice per quarter. Therefore, during that year, the *average* GPPII practice with >90% coverage rates received \$3670 in outcome payments alone.

For further information on the fridges mentioned above, including contact details, please contact Beth Bignell at the IDGP on 4226 7052.