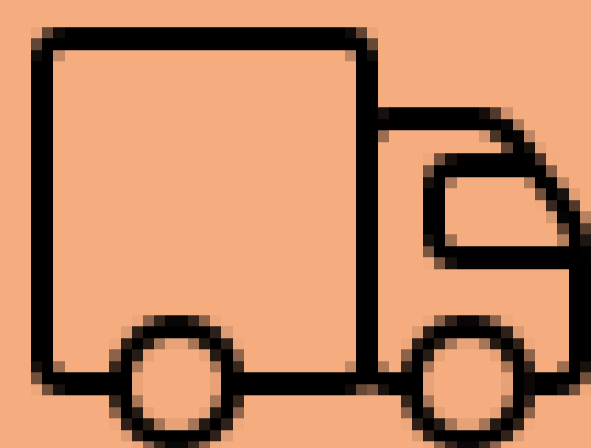


NT Vaccine Delivery: Audit into Creating a Sustainable Future Model

Authors: Michelle Edmonds¹ Sophie Duke³, Mira Sastado², Chastina Heck⁴, Melynda Goss⁵, Jennifer Collins², Danielle Butler², Stephanie Giles³, Siang Cheah⁶, Bhavini Patel¹

1. Medicines Management Team NT Health 2. Royal Darwin Hospital, Darwin, NT, Australia; 3. Alice Springs Hospital, Alice Springs NT, Australia; 4. Gove District Hospital, Nhulunbuy NT, Australia; 5. Katherine District Hospital, Katherine NT, Australia; 6. Primary and Public Health Care, Central Australia & Barkly Region



Background: The logistics of Northern Territory (NT) National Immunisation Program (NIP) Vaccine Distribution is a large and complex operation that has evolved and grown. Unlike other jurisdictions, NT Health provides this service through the NT pharmacy departments and do not contract to a third party provider. Vaccines need to be distributed to approximately 197 different vaccine service providers (VSPs) across urban and remote locations. The current system for distribution, costing and charging is fragmented with limited transparency and is likely largely based on historical processes as the service has grown.

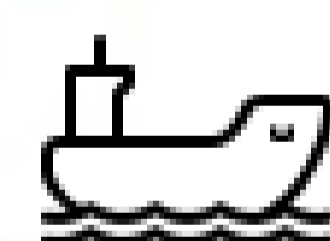
METHOD & RESULTS

A 2-month snap shot audit, from March to April 2023, was undertaken to gain insight into the current NT logistics process and to provide an estimate of the true cost of vaccine distribution, particularly to remote locations. Each region has distinct differences in distribution demands, process and requirements to ensure appropriate vaccine distribution.

50,954 VACCINES DELIVERED
516 VACCINE DELIVERIES
16 FREIGHT PROVIDERS



62% URBAN DELIVERIES*
100% of Urban Deliveries via
ROAD Freight



38% REMOTE DELIVERIES
OF THE REMOTE DELIVERIES
35% AIR Freight
64% ROAD Freight
2% SEA Freight

Financial Implications

The direct cost to NT Health are approximately:

- \$150,905 pa staffing
- up to \$1.84 per vaccine

Indirect costs (not accounted for):

- Physical space
- Fridge & freezers
- Electricity
- Cold Chain Transport
- Miscellaneous Staffing



Conclusion

This audit provides a holistic understanding of the current distribution service. It represents the first phase of service delivery improvement to ensure a sustainable future for vaccine delivery across the NT.

The results from this audit will be used to redesign the current system with consideration of using third party logistics provider for NIP delivery in the NT.

*The term "urban" is used in this context in relation to the distance to a Hospital Pharmacy Department distribution centre.