

Storage of uterotonic drugs in the Pharmacy

Oxytocin is the uterotonic of choice for the practice of AMTSL



- Make sure that there are adequate stocks of uterotonic drugs, syringes, and injection safety materials
- Check the manufacturer's label for storage recommendations
- Make sure that there is a system in place to monitor the temperature of the refrigerator / cold box - record the temperature in the refrigerator on a regular basis, preferably at the hottest times of the day (put thermometers in different parts of the refrigerator)
- Make sure that there is a back-up system in place in case of frequent electricity cuts - for example, gas or solar refrigerators, placing ice packs in the refrigerator to keep it cool, etc.
- Follow the rule of first expired – first out (or first in – first out) and maintain a log to keep track of expiration dates to reduce wastage of uterotonic drugs
- Store **misoprostol** at room temperature and away from excess heat and moisture
- To ensure the longest life possible of **injectable uterotonics**, keep them refrigerated at 2–8 °C
- Protect **ergometrine** and **syntometrine** from freezing and light

Storage of uterotonic drugs in Delivery Rooms

**Oxytocin is the
uterotonic of
choice for the
practice of
AMTSL**



- Check the manufacturer's label for recommendations on how to store injectable uterotonic drugs outside the refrigerator. In general:
 - Oxytocin may be kept outside the refrigerator at a maximum of 30°C (warm, ambient climate) for up to three months and then discarded
 - Ergometrine and syntometrine vials may be kept outside the refrigerator in closed boxes and protected from the light for up to one month at 30°C and then discarded
 - Misoprostol should be stored at room temperature away from excess heat and moisture
- Record the temperature in the delivery room on a regular basis, preferably at the hottest times of the day
- Periodically remove ampoules from the refrigerator for use in the delivery room – carefully calculate the number removed from the refrigerator based anticipated need
- Only remove ampoules or vials from their box just before using them
- Make sure that there are adequate stocks of syringes and injection safety materials
- Avoid keeping injectable uterotonics in open kidney dishes, trays, or coat pockets