



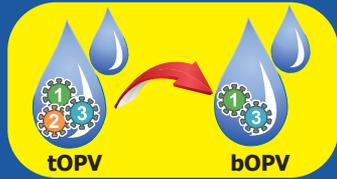
**Be Wise!**  
**Get your child**  
**fully immunized**

**tOPV to bOPV**  
**THE SWITCH**

**ON**  
**25<sup>th</sup> APRIL**  
**2016**



**Frequently**  
**Asked**  
**Questions**



**for Cold Chain Handlers and**  
**Auxiliary Nursing Midwives (ANMs)**

**POLIO FREE INDIA • POLIO FREE WORLD**



Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
 Government of India



**World Health**  
**Organization**



**Rotary**



# tOPV to bOPV THE SWITCH

ON  
25<sup>th</sup> APRIL  
2016

POLIO FREE INDIA • POLIO FREE WORLD

India has achieved a historic landmark by eradicating polio from the country. The last case of polio was reported from the country on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2011 and thereafter India was certified polio free by the World Health Organization on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2014. The victory over polio in India is your victory and a result of your tireless efforts and commitment. Congratulations!!!

In November 2015, the Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV) has been introduced into the routine immunization programme of the country. A single dose of IPV is being given along with the third dose of Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) to children below one year of age to provide double protection against polio.

This booklet contains the relevant information on the upcoming tOPV to bOPV **SWITCH** for cold chain staff and ANMs so that they may understand their roles and are better prepared for the **SWITCH** on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

## Why the SWITCH?

Trivalent oral polio vaccine (tOPV) is currently being used in routine immunization and polio campaigns. It contains all three types of polioviruses – type 1, 2 and 3. Since the wild poliovirus type 2 has been eradicated from the world, there is no need to continue giving tOPV containing polioviruses – type 1, 2 and 3.

Bivalent oral polio vaccine (bOPV) which contains only type 1 and 3 will totally replace tOPV throughout the world. It will protect against the remaining polioviruses – type 1 and 3. bOPV will now be used in all future routine immunization and polio campaigns.

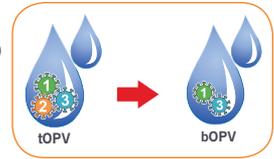
This shift from tOPV to bOPV is called the **SWITCH** and will be a globally coordinated process. **In India, the National Switch Day will be 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016, when bOPV will replace tOPV. All tOPV stocks will be completely withdrawn and destroyed as per the guidelines.**

## What is the SWITCH?



### 1. What is the SWITCH?

The tOPV used for routine immunization and polio campaigns will be totally replaced by bOPV. This is called the **SWITCH**.



### 2. When will the SWITCH take place?

The **SWITCH** will take place on National Switch Day, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016, all over India, on the same day.

### 3. What will happen during the SWITCH?

All existing tOPV stocks for both routine immunization and polio campaigns will be withdrawn from the cold chain and destroyed as per the guidelines. Only bOPV will be used from the **SWITCH** date of 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

### 4. Does the timeline for the SWITCH depend on situation or location?

No. This is not optional. All states, districts and blocks in India have to follow the same date for the **SWITCH** which is 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

## FAQs about switching from tOPV to bOPV



### 1. Can bOPV polio drops be given the same way as the tOPV polio drops?

Yes, there is no difference. Schedule of bOPV in routine immunization will be same as existing schedule of tOPV. bOPV will be given to all children under five years of age in polio campaigns as well.

### 2. Is it safe to give bOPV to a child who has been given tOPV earlier?

Yes. It is absolutely safe to give bOPV drops to a child who has been given tOPV drops earlier.

### 3. Will tOPV be available after the SWITCH date?

No. There will be no tOPV available anywhere in the world after the **SWITCH** is complete.

### 4. Is it safe if both bOPV and IPV are given to the same child?

Yes. Both vaccines work together for double protection against polio.

### 5. How can tOPV and bOPV vaccine vials be differentiated?

There is no colour difference in the tOPV and bOPV vials. Cold chain handlers and ANMs must carefully read the label to check that the vial contains bOPV for use after the **SWITCH** date of 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016 before distributing or giving the vaccine.



# tOPV to bOPV THE SWITCH

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## Responsibilities of Cold Chain Handlers

As a cold chain handler, you have a very important role during the **SWITCH**. You will be responsible for handling the new bOPV vaccines and ensuring removal of tOPV vaccine from the cold chain.

Any tOPV use after the **SWITCH** can put global polio eradication at risk. Please read the steps that you will follow during the **SWITCH**. In case you have any doubts, you should immediately contact your supervisor.

### BEFORE THE SWITCH

#### 1. When will the new stocks of bOPV be received?

- District cold chain points will start to receive supplies of bOPV two weeks before the **SWITCH**. These supplies should be stored in the ice-lined refrigerator (ILR) without opening the last cardboard packaging (secondary packaging).
- Cold chain points/primary health centres/community health centres/urban health centers will receive bOPV 1-2 days before the **SWITCH**.

#### 2. Where should the bOPV stocks be stored?

The bOPV stock should be stored in the ILR between 2-8°C. Remember that for a two-week period prior to National Switch Day, both bOPV and tOPV will be in the vaccine cold chain together at the district level. Ensure tOPV and bOPV stocks are separately stored and clearly marked to avoid any mixing.

The bOPV should not be used in routine immunization or campaigns before the **SWITCH** date of 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016. **The bOPV packs will be opened only on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016 for distribution.**

### DURING THE SWITCH

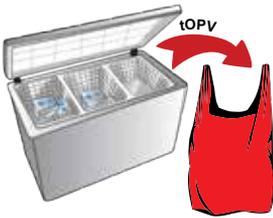
#### 1. What will happen during the SWITCH?

District vaccine switch teams consisting of notified health staff will be formed. They will be given a vehicle to push-exchange tOPV with bOPV. One team will be responsible for exchanging vaccines at multiple cold chain points in a day.

After reaching a cold chain point, the district vaccine switch team will:

- 1 Collect all remaining tOPV.
- 2 Deliver bOPV for a two month period.
- 3 Certify that there is no tOPV left at the cold chain point.
- 4 Collect certificates submitted by all ANMs documenting return of all unused/partially used tOPV vials after the last session prior to the **SWITCH**.

## 2. What should be done with the remaining tOPV stocks at the time of the SWITCH?



- 1 Remove all remaining tOPV from cold chain.
- 2 Pack the remaining tOPV clearly marked as 'waste for disposal'. The packs should be kept away from other vaccines. The package is now waste material and should not be placed in the ILR.
- 3 The sealed package containing all remaining tOPV vials should be handed over to the district vaccine switch team who will collect the tOPV from you.

## 3. When will the district vaccine switch team come to the cold chain point?

The district vaccine switch team will come to the cold chain point between the last routine immunization day and the **SWITCH** day.

## 4. What should be done if the tOPV waste has not been collected from the cold chain point till the SWITCH day?

If the tOPV waste has not been collected from the cold chain point till the **SWITCH** day, immediately inform the medical officer and district cold chain manager about it. They will take the necessary action.

## 5. Can an ANM or cold chain handler destroy the tOPV stocks themselves?

No. ANM or cold chain handler cannot destroy the tOPV stocks themselves. They must hand over all the tOPV stock to the collection team.

## AFTER THE SWITCH

### 1. What will happen to remaining tOPV after the SWITCH?

All remaining tOPV will be returned to the district headquarters for safe disposal.

### 2. Will the removal and disposal of tOPV stocks be monitored?

Yes. Independent switch monitors will visit all health facilities and cold chain points to verify that there is no tOPV stock left.

### 3. Which vaccine should be used after the SWITCH?

Only bOPV can be used after the **SWITCH** for routine immunization and polio campaigns. **Remember, do not use tOPV on or after 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016.**

### 4. What should be done if a tOPV vial is found after the SWITCH?

If a tOPV vial is found after the **SWITCH** then one must:

- Use a marker pen to put a cross (✕) on the vial so that the vial cannot be used.
- Inform the medical officer in charge of your facility immediately.
- Send the tOPV vials to the district headquarters for safe disposal.

## IMPORTANT DATES

### PREPARATION PHASE » January-March 2016

- |                                 |  |                               |
|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. Receive last tOPV deliveries | 2. Redistribute remaining tOPV stock as required | 3. Prepare training materials |
|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|

### ROLLOUT PHASE » April 2016

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Train switch monitors and health workers | 2. Distribute bOPV to periphery and service points |
|---|--|

### NATIONAL SWITCH DAY » 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016

- |                     |                                |                               |                      |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Stop use of tOPV | 2. Remove tOPV from cold chain | 3. Send all tOPV for disposal | 4. Begin use of bOPV |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|

### VALIDATION PHASE » 25<sup>th</sup> April - 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016

- |                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Completely dispose tOPV | 2. Validate tOPV disposal |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|

### NATIONAL VALIDATION DAY » 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Declare the country tOPV free



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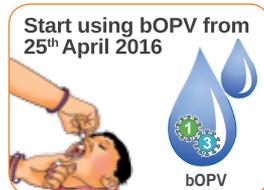
## Responsibilities of Auxiliary Nursing Midwives

As an ANM, you have a very important role during the **SWITCH** since you give polio drops to children during routine immunization and polio campaigns. Please read the steps that you will follow during the **SWITCH**. In case you have any doubts, you should immediately contact your supervisor.

### BEFORE THE SWITCH

#### 1. What should be done with the existing tOPV vials?

- tOPV vials with usable vaccine vial monitor can safely be used during the routine immunization sessions till 24<sup>th</sup> April 2016.
- The tOPV vials cannot be used on or after 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016 once the **SWITCH** begins.



#### 2. When will the new bOPV vials be received?

bOPV will be issued for use from 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016 onwards.

### DURING THE SWITCH

#### 1. When should the tOPV vials be returned?

- Return all remaining tOPV (opened and unopened vials) from the sub-centre to the cold chain point after the last session has been conducted before the **SWITCH** date.
- Sign a certificate of return of all tOPV vials and submit it to the cold chain handler.



### AFTER THE SWITCH

#### 1. What should be done to the additional tOPV vials?

- Do not use tOPV vials on or after 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016.
- Use a marker pen to put a cross (X) on the vial.
  - Immediately return the waste vial to the cold chain point. These vials will be sent to district for safe disposal.



