

T-22011/01/2013-CC & V
Government of India
Ministry of Health & family Welfare
Immunization Division

Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated: 18th January, 2016

To,

Dr. Hrishikesh D. Pai
Secretary General,
The Federation of Obstetric and Gynecological Societies of India
C-5,6,7,12,13, 1st Floor, Trade World,
D-wing Entrance, S. B. Marg,
Kamala City, Lower Parel (W), Mumbai-400013.

Subject: Regarding tOPV to bOPV switch on 25th April, 2016

Sir,

The year 2015 has had fewer Polio cases in fewer places than ever before with only two remaining endemic countries: Afghanistan and Pakistan. The world is now moving to the next stage for global eradication of polio. As you know, the oral polio vaccine that is being used till date provides immunity against all three types of polioviruses i.e. type 1, 2 and 3. Global eradication of Type 2 wild poliovirus (WPV) has been declared by Global Certification Commission of World Health Organization on 20th September, 2015 as last case of WPV type 2 was reported in 1999, therefore there is no need to include type 2 in the OPV. Accordingly, as part of the Global Polio Endgame Strategy, all OPV using countries across the world will switch from trivalent to bivalent vaccine (which contains only type 1 and 3) in a globally coordinated manner in April, 2016.

A meeting regarding switch was held at Nirman Bhawan, MoHFW on 18th December, 2015 which was attended by representatives from professional bodies and relevant stakeholders. During the meeting it was informed that on National Switch Day i.e. 25th April 2016, tOPV will be completely withdrawn and replaced by bOPV in both routine immunization and polio campaigns. This switch will be validated for the nationwide absence of tOPV at all facilities including private sector. Subsequently on 9th May, 2016 i.e. National Validation Day, country will be declared free of tOPV.

It was also informed in the meeting that there will be no supplies of tOPV after 1st April 2016 in private market, and bOPV will be made available from 10th April, 2016 i.e. two weeks before the switch date in private market. However it is noteworthy that bOPV must not be opened or used before the switch date.

As informed earlier in the meeting you are kindly requested to circulate this information to all your members nationwide and ensure participation and cooperation of the members wherever required.

We look forward to your support in ensuring the global eradication of this dreaded disease.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. Pradeep Haldar)
Deputy Commissioner-Immunization

Copy to: Drug Controller General of India, CDSCO (With the request to ensure supplies of bOPV before switch and prohibit tOPV use/storage after switch date)