

Health & Human Services



North Dakota Immunization Information System

Lot Number Variations Between Unit of Sale and Unit of Use

What is the Unit of Sale?

The Unit of Sale (UoS) is the exterior packaging or carton that the immunization is shipped in.



What is the Unit of Use?

The Unit of Use (UoU) is the immunization vial or pre-filled syringe found within the UoS.



Why is this Important?

Some immunizations twill have a different lot number on the UoS and UoU for the same product. This makes documenting the administration of the immunization challenging when trying to figure out which lot number you should record in the NDIIS. The UoS is generally the lot number used for inventory management and it is the lot number the NDDHHS Immunization Unit receives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shipping files and enters into the NDIIS inventory for all publicly funded immunizations. Some immunization providers have implemented the use of 2D barcode scanning for more accurate documentation of immunization administration. However, when using the 2D barcode scanner, it is the standard of practice to use the lot number on the UoU, which may not match the lot number in the NDIIS inventory.

What does this mean?

When doses are added to an NDIIS patient immunization record, lot number is a freetext field and is required for all administered (i.e., non-historical) doses. When a lot number entered in an immunization record, either directly in the NDIIS or through an interface with a provider electronic health record (EHR) system, matches a lot number in the provider's NDIIS inventory, the dose will be decremented from the provider's inventory. If the lot number entered is from the UoU and not the UoS, a matching lot number may not be found in the provider's NDIIS inventory and the dose cannot be decremented from inventory. This means that providers enrolled in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) and/or Vaccines For Adults (VFA) public vaccine program may not have an accurate inventory count of doses on hand in the NDIIS.

What can we do?

When documenting the administration of an immunization, it is recommended that you are recording the lot number from the UoS, not the UoU. This will ensure that the inventory management data will stay in sync. VFC/VFA enrolled providers must reconcile their public immunization inventory in the NDIIS within 7 days of placing a new public immunization order. Using the UoS lot number when documenting administered doses ensures doses are correctly decremented from inventory and fewer changes will be needed during the inventory reconciliation process.