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**“An Appeal to Members of Indian Academy of Pediatrics**

**and all Pediatricians"**

Dear All,

**This is to inform you that Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India (GoI) has decided April 25, 2016 as National Switch Date for switching from tOPV to bOPV all over the country. After the switch date, only bOPV will be used both in routine immunization (RI) as well as polio campaigns. No supplies of tOPV will be accepted from 1st March 2016 onwards in government supplies chains and after 1st April 2016 in private market. After switch date, remaining tOPV will be removed from cold chain and disposed off as per National Switch Plan (1).**

**The GoI has requested IAP to ensure participation and cooperation of its members in switch and validation process. The Government has also urged the Academy to ensure appropriate disposal of tOPV from private sector is linked with that of public sector. National Validation Day has been decided as 9th May, 2016.**

**The GoI has also asked the vaccine manufacturers to ensure availability of bOPV from 10th April 2016, i.e. two weeks before the switch date in open market. All remaining tOPV will be destroyed as per the advisory issued by GoI and DCGI.**

**Through this communiqué, the Academy request all its members to participate in the 'switch process' and ensure the following:**

**1-Destroy all the available stock of tOPV in your premises on 25th April 2016;**

**2-To avoid wastage, order only as much of tOPV as required for your clinical use till 24th April 2016;**

**3-Cooperate with designated authorities for validation purposes**

**How to destroy tOPV on/after 25th April 2016?**

***(Use anyone of the following method as per availability)***

* Use medical waste incinerator under supervision;
* Autoclave for 30 minutes under supervision;
* Boil tOPV vials in plain water for 10 minutes under supervision;

**Key Dates related to 'switch':**

* **April 1st:** tOPV would not be available after this date.
* **April 11th:** bOPV would be available in private market but it is not to be opened or used before 25th April.
* **April 25:** Polio Switch Day, when tOPV would be completely withdrawn and replaced by bOPV in both routine immunization and polio campaigns.
* **9th May:** National Validation Day when India would be declared free of tOPV.

Thanking you,

Sincerely,

**Office Bearers of Central IAP & ACVIP**

*1-Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Immunization Division, Minutes of the meeting for tOPV to bOPV switch. Available from: http://emedinews.in/2016/jan/Final-Minutes-of-meeting-on-tOPV-to-bOPV-Switch-in-India.pdf Accessed on March 8, 2016.*