



tOPV to bOPV
THE SWITCH ON
25th APRIL
2016

POLIO FREE INDIA • POLIO FREE WORLD

India has achieved a historic landmark by eradicating polio. The last case of polio in India was in January 2011, and subsequently India was officially certified polio free by the World Health Organization on 27th March 2014. The world is now moving to the next stage for global eradication of polio.

As you know, the oral polio vaccine (OPV) that is being used till date contains all 3 types of polioviruses – type 1, 2 and 3. Type 2 virus has been eradicated from the world and now there is no need to include type 2 in the oral polio drops.

So as part of the next stage, all countries across the world including India are now removing type 2 from the polio drops and leaving OPV with only 2 types of polioviruses – type 1 and 3.

The globally coordinated switch from tOPV to bOPV will occur in April 2016. In India, the National Switch Day will be 25th April 2016, when tOPV will be completely withdrawn and replaced by bOPV in both private and public sectors. Only bOPV will be used after this switch in both routine immunization and polio campaigns.

As a medical doctor, you have played a very important role in helping eliminate polio from our country. These are very simple steps that you can undertake to support the SWITCH.



Your role as a medical practitioner in the SWITCH

Before the SWITCH

- Be aware of the SWITCH date – 25th April 2016 is National Switch Day.
- Inform all your para-medical staff about the SWITCH so that they can support you during the SWITCH.
- Ensure that there is no excess tOPV stock in your clinic because the stock will be wasted as it cannot be used after the SWITCH date of 25th April 2016.

On & after the SWITCH

- **STOP using tOPV & START using bOPV.**
- If you have tOPV stock after the SWITCH date, ensure that you remove the tOPV stock from your clinic, put the tOPV stock in a package and mark it clearly as biowaste.
- Ensure that you return this excess tOPV stock to the District Health Officer/Chief Medical Officer for disposal.
- Check that your clinic does not have any tOPV stock remaining.

As the world gears up for eradication of this dreaded disease polio, we are relying on your help to ensure that this important milestone in the Polio Endgame is achieved in our country.

Remember, using tOPV after the SWITCH date will jeopardize polio eradication.

- IMPORTANT DATES**
- NATIONAL SWITCH DAY > 25th April, 2016
 - VALIDATION PHASE > 25th April - 9th May 2016
 - NATIONAL VALIDATION DAY > 9th May 2016

In case you would like more information about the SWITCH, contact your District Health Officer/Chief Medical Officer

