

MHRA Drug Safety Update

October 2021



MHRA
Regulating Medicines and Medical Devices

MedSafetyWeek November 2021: support the safety of vaccines

The sixth annual #MedSafetyWeek social media campaign will take place on 1 to 7 November 2021. This year's theme is on the importance of reporting suspected adverse reactions to vaccines.

The purpose of the campaign is to support awareness of reporting to the Yellow Card scheme, and for reporting suspected adverse reactions following vaccination. The MHRA is advising people not to wait for someone else to report their suspicions.

The annual #MedSafetyWeek forms part an international effort to raise awareness about the importance of reporting suspected adverse reactions by national medicines regulatory authorities from 65 countries across the globe and their stakeholders.

What healthcare professionals can do to support MedSafetyWeek – 1 to 7 November 2021:

- don't delay in reporting suspected adverse reactions to the [Yellow Card scheme](#) or via the Yellow Card app (download from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#))
- report suspected reactions to COVID-19 vaccines and medicines to the [Coronavirus Yellow Card reporting site](#) or Yellow Card app
- for each vaccine administered, accurately record in clinical health records details such as the vaccine and product name, batch number, expiry date, the dose, number of vaccinations (if multiple), and site of administration
- include the brand and batch number when reporting suspected adverse reactions to vaccines to the Yellow Card scheme
- for suspected reactions following a third or booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, please provide details of any suspected reactions following previous COVID-19 vaccinations, including which vaccine was previously received
- consider a discussion about common 'side effects' with your patient; you could talk about:
 - o noting the batch number and reading the product information that comes with the vaccine – it lists possible reactions and advises them on what to do, including reporting side effects
 - o the purpose of the Yellow Card scheme and the importance of reporting any suspected problems to help the safe use of vaccines for others
 - o what to do if they do experience any suspected adverse reactions following vaccination
- talk to your colleagues about being vigilant for new or rare suspected reactions with vaccines or medicines and reporting them to the MHRA
- follow the MHRA on its social media channels and show your support by retweeting, commenting, liking, and sharing material with your social media contacts using #MHRAYellowCard, #MedSafetyWeek, #ReportSideEffects, and #patientsafety

COVID-19 vaccines and Yellow Card reports

The MHRA continues to publish the [summaries of Yellow Card report for the COVID-19 vaccines](#), being used in the UK. The report, published weekly, summarises information received via the Yellow Card scheme and other safety investigations carried out by the MHRA under the [COVID-19 Vaccine Surveillance Strategy](#). The MHRA takes every report of a suspected adverse reaction seriously and encourages everyone to report through the Coronavirus Yellow Card reporting site or using the Yellow Card app. There are also [online resources available for you to use](#).