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MHRA
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www.gov.uk/mhra

29 May 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

FOI 2024/00078

Thank you for your email dated the 29 April 2024 where you requested “*all available Yellow Card data/reports on the HPV Vaccine*”.

I can confirm that up to and including 16/05/2024, the MHRA has received 10,400 UK spontaneous suspected adverse reaction (ADR) reports associated with the HPV vaccine. The attached Vaccine Analysis Print (VAP) contains information on all the UK spontaneous ADR reports received through the Yellow Card scheme up to and including 16/05/2024. The attached guidance sheet provides you with further information on how to interpret the print. When considering the spontaneous data within this response, it is important to be aware of the following points:

- A reported reaction does not necessarily mean it has been caused by the vaccine, only that the reporter had a suspicion it may have. Each year, millions of doses of routine vaccines are given in the UK alone, and when any vaccine is administered to very large numbers of people, some recipients will inevitably experience illness following vaccination. The fact that symptoms occur after use of a vaccine, and are reported via the Yellow Card scheme, does not in itself mean that they are proven to have been caused by the vaccine. Underlying or concurrent illnesses may be responsible and such events can also be coincidental.
- It is also important to note that the number of reports received via the Yellow Card scheme does not directly equate to the number of people who suffer adverse reactions and therefore cannot be used to determine the incidence of a reaction. ADR reporting rates are influenced by the seriousness of ADRs, their ease of recognition, the extent of use of a particular drug, and may be stimulated by promotion and publicity about a drug. Reporting tends to be highest for newly introduced medicines during the first one to two years on the market and then falls over time. For these reasons the enclosed data should not be used as a basis for determining incidence of side effects.



The MHRA continuously monitors the safety of medicines and vaccines through a variety of pharmacovigilance processes including the Yellow Card scheme. As part of our signal detection processes all adverse reaction reports received by the Yellow Card scheme are individually assessed and cumulative information reviewed at regular intervals. Any emerging evidence relating to possible risks associated with vaccines and medicines, is carefully reviewed and, if appropriate, regulatory action would be taken if any serious risks were confirmed.

As these data do not necessarily refer to proven side effects, you should refer to the product information which can be found here: [MHRA Products | Home](#) for details on the possible side effects of the vaccine.

We hope the information provided is helpful, but if you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of this response; and can be addressed to this email address.

Yours sincerely,

FOI Team,
Safety and Surveillance

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If you have a query about the information provided, please reply to this email

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you were to remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you would have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please bear in mind that the Information Commissioner will not normally review our handling of your request unless you have first contacted us to conduct an internal review. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
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SK9 5AF



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