



Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

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[MHRA Website](https://www.mhra.gov.uk)

Our Ref: **FOI 2025/00219**

31st March 2025

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 7th March 2025 where you asked,

“Hi i am trying to see if anyone has reported side affects of the pneumonia vaccine .I dont see anything on the yellow card website?”

MHRA Response

I can confirm up to and including 24/03/2025 the MHRA has received 6,566 UK spontaneous suspected adverse reaction reports associated with the pneumonia vaccines. There are 2 types of pneumococcal vaccines given in the UK. Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine is usually given to adults and children over 2 and Pneumococcal conjugate vaccines usually given to babies under 2.

Please see attached the Vaccine Analysis Print (VAP) which lists all the reactions that have been reported to us associated with the pneumonia vaccines. You will also see enclosed an information sheet for guidelines on how to interpret the VAP. Please note, the total number of reactions in the table will not be equal to the total number of unique reports as one report may contain more than one reaction.

When considering this spontaneous data, 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 been. The fact that symptoms occur after use of a vaccine or medicine, and are reported via the Yellow Card scheme, does not in itself mean that they are proven to have been caused by it. Underlying or concurrent illnesses may be responsible and such events can also be coincidental.



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- 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 or compare the safety profile of different vaccines. ADR reporting rates are influenced by the seriousness of ADRs, their ease of recognition, the extent of use of a particular medicine, and may be stimulated by promotion and publicity about a drug. Reporting tends to be highest for newly introduced medicines or vaccine during the first one to two years on the market and then falls over time.

Please be aware that the VAP provided should not be used as a list of side effects to the vaccine. All established adverse reactions for any vaccine can be found within the Patient Information Leaflets (PILs), available here <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc>

I hope the information provided is helpful. If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

MHRA Central Freedom of Information Team
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Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act

If you are not happy with this response you may request an internal review by e-mailing foi.request@mhra.gov.uk or by writing to: MHRA Central Freedom of Information Team, 10 South, Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London, E14 4PU

Any request for an internal review must be received by us within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please note we are not obliged to provide a review if it is requested after more than 40 working days.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Website: [ICO FOI and EIR complaints](#) or telephone 0303 123 1113.

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