Prescribing Tip No. 344

Date: 6th January 2022

**A yellow and black license plate

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceThe Yellow Card Scheme**

**The Yellow Card Scheme** is vital in helping the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) monitor the safety of ALL healthcare products in the UK to ensure they are safe and acceptable for patients. This has become especially important during the COVID pandemic and the mass COVID vaccination rollout.

**Yellow Card reports** can be made for suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) to all drugs including

* Vaccines, blood products, herbal and homeopathic products and medical devices
* Defective medicines
* Fake or counterfeit medicines
* Overdoses and medication errors

**Yellow Card reporting in our area?**

Reporting rates in our area are poor. Only 1 report from each CCG was sent in the whole of Q1 and Q2 of 2021.

In contrast, in the Northwest COVID vaccination reporting figure for Q2 was 5,214. These were mainly reported by patients, but also health care professionals to the [Coronavirus Yellow Card reporting site](https://coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/)

**How could we do better?**

How could the reporting rates for Greater Preston and Chorley and South Ribble CCGs be improved?

* Nominate a person in each GP practice to be a champion – any health care professional.
* Try to report at least once per month
* Consider focusing on one group of drugs such as anticoagulants, antiplatelets, antibiotics or NOACs.

**What should I report to the Yellow Card Scheme?**

* All suspected reactions with newer drugs and vaccines identified by the black triangle symbol ▼
* All serious, medically significant or resulting in harm from established drugs and vaccines. A serious event is one which is fatal, life-threatening, disabling, incapacitating or results in prolonged hospitalisation.

**How do I report a suspected ADR to the Yellow Card Scheme?**

* Online at[**Yellow Card Scheme - MHRA**](https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/)
* Via the Yellow Card App from iTunes or PlayStore
* By post- complete a yellow Card form found in the BNF & MIMS.
* Call the Yellow Card reporting line on **0800 731 6789.** Both patients and healthcare professionals can report.

**What information do I need to be included on the Yellow Card Report?**

* Minimum requirements include one piece of patient identifier, name of the suspect drug, details of the ADR and details of the reporter.
* Extra information includes assessment of the seriousness of the ADR, other drugs taken and any other history.

**Yellow card reports can easily be sent direct from EMIS** from a patient’s EMIS record. See the attached embedded document –



**What happens to the Yellow Card Reports?**

All reports are entered onto the MHRA database and the relationship between the medicine and the side effect is analysed. New warnings may be added to the product information or patient information leaflet, or the dosages may be amended.

[Drug Safety Updates](https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update) are regularly issued to health care professionals.

Rarely the MHRA takes the medicine off the market – but only if the risks of the medicine’s side effects outweigh its’ benefits.

Prescribing tip for information

**To contact the Medicines Optimisation Team please phone 01772 214302**