



Clinical review of late onset AEFIs

This document shows health professionals (HPs) how to contact the Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC) for advice about late onset adverse events following immunisation (AEFIs) or suspected vaccine-related events and to support people experiencing adverse events to have the next vaccine dose.

This refers to events that occur after the post-vaccination 20-30 minute observation; and/or not at the vaccination site.

If HPs have concerns about a potential AEFI or medical precautions prior to the first vaccination, they can also contact IMAC via the same pathway outlined.

For a suspected AEFI at the vaccination clinic or within 30 minutes of vaccination, follow the site's standard operating procedures (SOPs) or the resource: *Clinical Review of Early COVID AEFIs*.

Examples of late onset AEFIs (post-30 minutes)

- hypertensive episode on the day of the vaccination
- urticaria occurring 4 hours after vaccination
- migraine episode within 12 hours of vaccination
- Bell's palsy occurring within 14 days of vaccination

Behind the scenes

- IMAC keeps a record of those patients who the medical advisor recommends a follow up. They do so with the HP at the appropriate time.
- Medical advisors have a weekly meeting about AEFIs and review requests and create management plan.
- When necessary, IMAC medical advisors consult with their network of specialists including rheumatology, neurology and clinical pharmacologists with interest in AEFI for more rare issues
- For certain or more comprehensive advice provided by IMAC - clinical advice can be sent to patient's GP via email with cc to CARM.

The pathway

Before or after a COVID vaccination event, any health service (including General Practice and After hours/Urgent Care) can request advice regarding late onset AEFI assessment.

There are three ways to contact IMAC for support about late onset AEFIs:

PHONE	0800 IMMUNE (0800 466 863) 8am -8pm 7 days a week
	The IMAC advisor will discuss the AEFI and get complete clinical details with immediate escalation to a medical advisor at this point or will refer for discussion by team.
EMAIL	0800immune@auckland.ac.nz
	Response is within 24 hrs. Include 'AEFI' as the subject and we will prioritise the reply.
HEALTH PATHWAYS	provides IMAC's contact details

- If an IMAC medical advisor is involved, their advice is often via email to IMAC advisor which is then relayed to HP, or less frequently medical advisor calls or emails provider directly.
- Advice may include 'proceed with 2nd dose no concerns', 'delay 2nd dose by 3 weeks', 'give with pre-medications for migraine'
- It could be suggested that the information is given to the patient to take to their next vaccination appointment if appropriate.

IMPORTANT:

- **IMAC does not provide urgent clinical advice.** If you are experiencing or managing a serious medical emergency, call 111.
- The HP also needs to notify CARM of the AEFI using the usual referral: <https://report.vaccine.covid19.govt.nz/>

Information IMAC will need when contacted

- PATIENT:** age, comorbidities, medications
- VACCINE:** date/time given, dose number, which arm
- AEFI:** onset in relation to vaccine, full details, current status. If appropriate and possible, photo of rash, laboratory or imaging results.

CALL 0800 IMMUNE (466 863) FOR NON-URGENT CLINICAL ADVICE