



Newsletter

Issue 2, September 2018

Update from AusVaxSafety Coordinator

Welcome to Issue 2 of the AusVaxSafety newsletter, which is jam-packed with AusVaxSafety updates. June saw the expansion of AusVaxSafety to include active surveillance of adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) associated with maternal pertussis-containing vaccines. This will provide safety data of public health interest to policy makers, consumers and immunisation providers.

This is the second expansion for AusVaxSafety in 2018, with the addition of active surveillance of HPV vaccine safety from February 2018, made possible through additional funding from the Australian Government Department of Health. Active HPV vaccine safety surveillance data primarily come from sentinel school-based immunisation programs across Western Australia, Queensland and Victoria, with over 7,000 participants to date. The National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) will continue to collaborate with [SmartVax](#), [Vaxtracker](#) and state and territory governments to further roll out active HPV vaccine safety surveillance nationally. As always, up-to-date vaccine safety data are available on the AusVaxSafety [website](#).

In other exciting news, Lady Cilento Children's Hospital (LCCH) in Queensland has recently started using the national Adverse Events Following Immunisation Clinical Assessment Network ([AEFI-CAN](#)) database. Led by [SAEFVIC](#) (at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute), with development and IT support from ChordWizard Systems (Stephen Clarke), the database has both AEFI reporting and clinical follow-up arms. The database is designed to help capture uniform AEFI data throughout Australia. LCCH joins The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne and Monash Health immunisation clinics, which are also using the database.

It's been a busy and exciting few months for AusVaxSafety and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our collaborators for their ongoing support and contribution.

Chloé Damon, AusVaxSafety Coordinator

Active vaccine safety data

[SmartVax reaches 1 million vaccination encounters](#)

Congratulations to [SmartVax](#) for reaching a milestone of 1 million vaccination encounters. SmartVax currently has over 260 surveillance sites across Australia and provides over 97% of all active surveillance data analysed and reported on by AusVaxSafety. The 1 million vaccination encounter milestone, achieved on 28 August 2018, highlights the significant contribution that SmartVax is making to vaccine safety surveillance in Australia, and is a testament to the hard work of the SmartVax team: Dr Alan Leeb, Ian Peters and Karin Orlemann.



News and events

[Annual AusVaxSafety meetings 2018](#)

This year NCIRS hosted two face-to-face meetings with key collaborators in Sydney, including members from SmartVax, Vaxtracker and the AusVaxSafety Expert Leadership Group, Evaluation Working Group and Communication Working Group. The meetings were very productive and gave collaborators an opportunity to reflect on significant progress made, and contribute to discussions regarding future AusVaxSafety plans and strategic direction.



Photo: Collaborators attending an AusVaxSafety annual face to face meeting in May 2018

Brand refresh

We are excited to unveil the refreshed AusVaxSafety logo, which is part of the larger NCIRS rebranding exercise:



The AusVaxSafety website redesign is also underway, and we anticipate the launch of this website before the end of the year. The refreshed website will enhance user accessibility and provide vaccine safety data and information for health professionals and consumers.

NCIRS Seminar Series 2018 - Active surveillance for immunisation programs: It's the future

NCIRS Seminar Series in April focused on world-leading active surveillance systems, including AusVaxSafety. This seminar provided insights into how active surveillance complements traditional passive surveillance, informs decision making for immunisation programs and assists in meeting international commitments for vaccine safety monitoring and disease reporting. Presentations can be accessed on the NCIRS [website](#).

PHAA 16th National Immunisation Conference

The 16th Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) National Immunisation Conference was held in Adelaide from 5 to 7 June 2018. The AusVaxSafety team at NCIRS gave 5 presentations at the conference, which can be accessed on the AusVaxSafety [website](#).

Adult Immunisation Satellite Workshop

The Annual Scientific Meeting for the Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases was held on the Gold Coast in May 2018, and attracted clinicians, microbiologists and other health professions with a common interest in infectious diseases. AEFI-CAN ran an Adult Immunisation Satellite Workshop entitled 'Vaccination is not just for kids: what infectious disease physicians need to know', which included presentations on AEFI-CAN by Associate Professor Nigel Crawford and Associate Professor Nicholas Wood; Vaccination in immunosuppressed adults by Professor Katie Flanagan; Influenza by Professor Allen Cheng; and Improving healthcare worker influenza vaccine uptake by Madeline Hall. The presentations are available [online](#).

About AusVaxSafety

Led by NCIRS and funded by the Australian Government Department of Health, AusVaxSafety is a world-leading national active vaccine safety system.

AusVaxSafety components include active surveillance using solicited feedback from consumers; nationally collaborative clinical investigation and management of complex adverse events following immunisation via AEFI-CAN; and novel zoster vaccine safety analysis using National Prescribing Service (NPS) MedicineInsight data.

AusVaxSafety is a collaboration between immunisation providers, private enterprise, research institutions, state and territory governments and the Australian Government Department of Health. This collaboration has significantly enhanced Australia's ability to monitor, detect and respond to potential vaccine safety signals.

AusVaxSafety is made possible by the contributions of our collaborators and funding from the Australian Government Department of Health.

