

# Reporting medicines side effects

## The Yellow Card Scheme



**Yellow Card**  
Making medicines safer

# Worried about side effects?



**If you are worried about a symptom you think may be a side effect:**

1. Check the leaflet supplied with the medicine. It lists known side effects and advises you what to do
2. Talk to a healthcare professional, such as a doctor, pharmacist or nurse
3. You can also get information from:
  - England and Scotland: NHS 111 on 111 (Textphone 08001 111)
  - NHS Direct Wales/Galw IECHYD Cymru by phone on 0845 46 47 (Textphone 0845 606 46 47)

**The MHRA cannot provide medical advice in individual cases.**

**Always contact your healthcare professional if you are worried about any symptoms or side effects**

**Reporting helps make  
medicines safer**



Taking a medicine, had a vaccine, or herbal or  
homeopathic remedy?

Suffering from a suspected side effect?

Then you should report it using the  
Yellow Card Scheme

**You** can help make medicines safer...

# Yellow Card Scheme



- Run by the Medicines and Healthcare product Regulatory Agency (MHRA) – the UK government medicines regulator
- Collects reports of suspected side effects submitted in confidence by healthcare professionals and patients
- Acts as an early warning system to identify side effects and risk factors
- When a problem is found, MHRA takes prompt action to protect the public
- Reports can also be made for problems or issues with medical devices, counterfeits, defective medicines (those that are not of acceptable quality), and safety problems with e-cigarettes and their refill containers

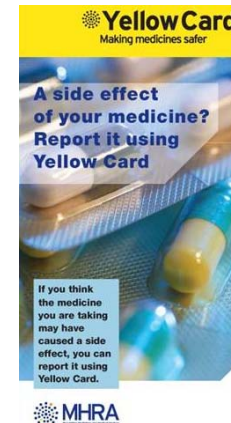
# How to report?



Anyone can report a suspected side effect to the Yellow Card Scheme

It's easy to report:

- Online: [www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard)
- Using paper forms from pharmacies and GP surgeries
- By phone: 0808 100 3352
- By downloading the free Yellow Card App



# Who can report?



You can report side effects that have happened to:

- You
- Your child
- Someone you are responsible for e.g. spouse or partner, an adult or child, or someone you care for
- Someone who asks you to make a report on their behalf

MHRA also collects Yellow Card reports from all healthcare professionals (including doctors, pharmacists and nurses). It is a legal requirement for pharmaceutical companies that make the medicine to report any suspected side effects to the MHRA that are reported to them. So report directly via a Yellow Card.

# What to report



- You can report suspected side effects of any medicine, vaccine, complimentary medicines such as herbal or homeopathic remedies whether bought or prescribed.
- Report suspected side effects that:
  - are not mentioned in the medicine patient information leaflet (in the medicines box)
  - causes harm or problems bad enough to interfere with everyday activities
  - happens when you're taking more than one medicine, and suspect any interactions

**If you are unsure to report please complete a Yellow Card**

# Completing a Yellow Card



The side effects form has 5 sections:

1. About the suspected side effect
2. About the person who had the suspected side effect
3. About the medicine or medicines which might have caused the side effect
4. About your doctor
5. About you – the person making the report

If you need help...

- Call the Yellow Card freephone **0808 100 3352**
- Or ask a healthcare professional



# Reporting online



[www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard)

- Simple to complete
- Registering is optional but helps save time if you complete more than one report
- Keep a record of your reports
- Reports can be saved at any time for completion later

The screenshot shows the YellowCard reporting website. At the top, there is a search bar and a 'Login' link. Below the search bar is a navigation menu with 'Home', 'About Yellow Card', 'Downloads', and 'Contact Us'. The main content area is titled 'Welcome to the reporting site for the Yellow Card Scheme'. It features a list of reporting options, each with a corresponding button: 'Side effect to a medicine, vaccine, herbal or homeopathic remedy' (Side effects), 'Medical device adverse incident' (Devices), 'Defective medicine (not of an acceptable quality)' (Defective), 'Counterfeit or fake medicine or medical device' (Fake), and 'Side effect or safety concern for an e-cigarette' (e-cigarette). There is also a link for 'Not sure which option to select? Help us guide you'. Below this, a section titled 'We cannot give you medical advice. If you are worried about your health:' provides instructions: 1. Talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse; 2. Call the NHS, with contact numbers for NHS 111 in England and Scotland, NHS Direct Wales/Galw IECHYD Cymru, and NHS Northern Ireland. At the bottom, there is a note: 'Always read the patient information leaflet, or instruction supplied with your medicine or medical device. It lists the known side effects or problems and advises you on what to do.'

# Reporting side effects via the mobile app



- Free to download and use
- Receive news and messages about medicines of interest
- See reports submitted via the app
- Access medicines information

**Did you know?** You can now tell us about suspected side effects on the move via the **MHRA's new Yellow Card mobile app**



The image shows a hand holding a white tablet. The screen displays the Yellow Card mobile app interface. At the top, it says 'YellowCard Making medicines safer'. Below that, it says 'Create watch lists, get news and alerts on medicines of interest'. At the bottom, it says '...it's free to download'. Below the tablet, there are two buttons: 'Download on the App Store' and 'ANDROID APP ON Google play'. Below the buttons, there is text: 'Download free from your iPhone or Android app store'.



 Medicines & Healthcare products  
Regulatory Agency

For more information on the App or about reporting medication side effects in general contact us at:

Yellow Card Centre Scotland  
Phone: 0131 242 2919  
E-mail: [YCCScotland@luht.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:YCCScotland@luht.scot.nhs.uk)

**Don't delay, report  
today!**



**Remember if you suspect a side  
effect, please report it to the Yellow  
Card Scheme**

**Help make medicines safer for  
everyone**

**Pick up a leaflet or visit  
[www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard)**