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MEDwatch *is the e-bulletin for all NHS Grampian Staff who are involved with patients and medicine management.*

Its aim is to improve the safety of medicines by sharing learning, and encouraging adverse event reporting from all staff groups.

Inside This Issue

The Focus of this edition of MedWatch is #MedSafetyWeek running 6th-12th November and has been written by Trainee Pharmacists currently completing their Foundation Training Year in the Pharmacy Department at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary.

Thank you to Marta Hristova, Paria Safari, Noah Methven for writing this newsletter, read on to find out more about #MedSafetyWeek

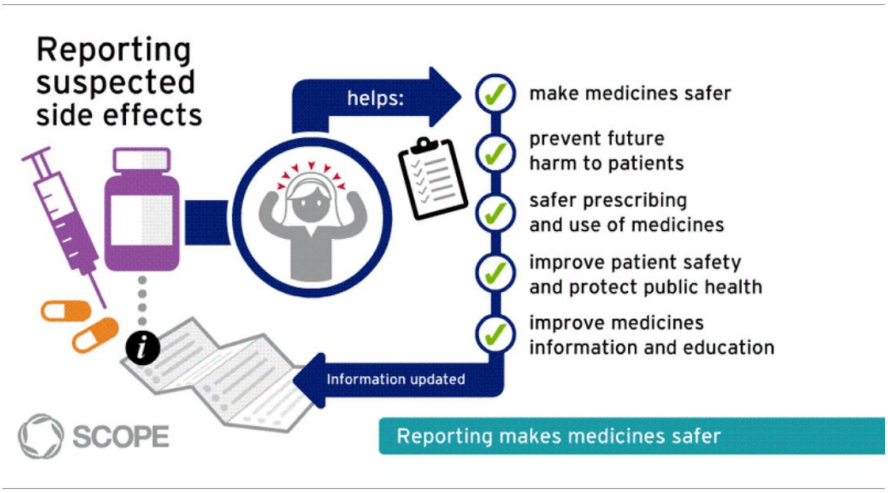
The eighth annual #MedSafetyWeek is here! #MedSafetyWeek is the annual social media campaign from the Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) which aims to raise awareness of how adverse drug reactions (ADRs) can be reported through its Yellow Card reporting scheme, this year we are focussing on Who Can Report?

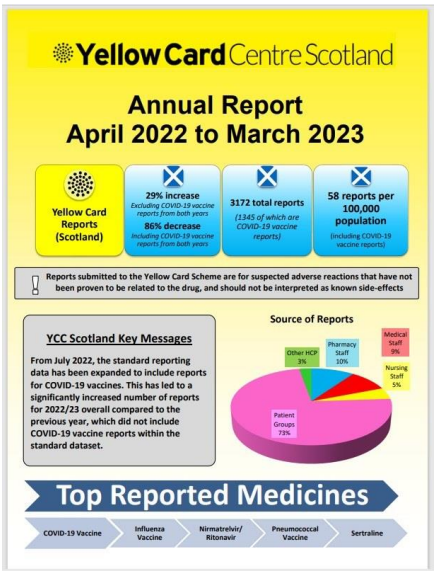
Who Can Report?

Everyone is responsible for reporting adverse drug reactions and we would encourage you to raise awareness of this by supporting the #MedSafetyWeek campaign on social media and sharing this information with your team.

The majority of yellow card reports are completed by patients but all of us have an important role to play in reporting ADRs. During 2021/22 the top 3 Healthcare Professional reporters for NHS Grampian were GPs, nurses and hospital doctors. Yellow Card Centre (YCC) Scotland has produced its annual report for 2022/23 and we will share the 2022/23 breakdown for NHS Grampian when it is available.

It is the responsibility of all Doctors, Nurses, Pharmacists and every other healthcare professional to report ADRs to the MHRA via the Yellow Card. EVERYONE CAN REPORT!





1 - [ANNUAL REPORT OF THE REGIONAL MONITORING CENTRES (scot.nhs.uk)]

What is an Adverse Drug Reaction (ADR)?

An adverse drug reaction is an undesirable or unintended response to a medicinal product that can result in patient harm. This can be a new or unrecognised effect of the drug or an established reaction which has been recorded in the patient information leaflet or summary of product characteristics.

Reporting Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs)

We are encouraging everyone and especially pharmacists to utilise the yellow card scheme, as it's much simpler to make a report than you might think.

To make yellow card reporting easier, go paperless and download the app or use the online form.

Contrary to popular belief ADR reporting doesn't have to take long, all you need is the following:

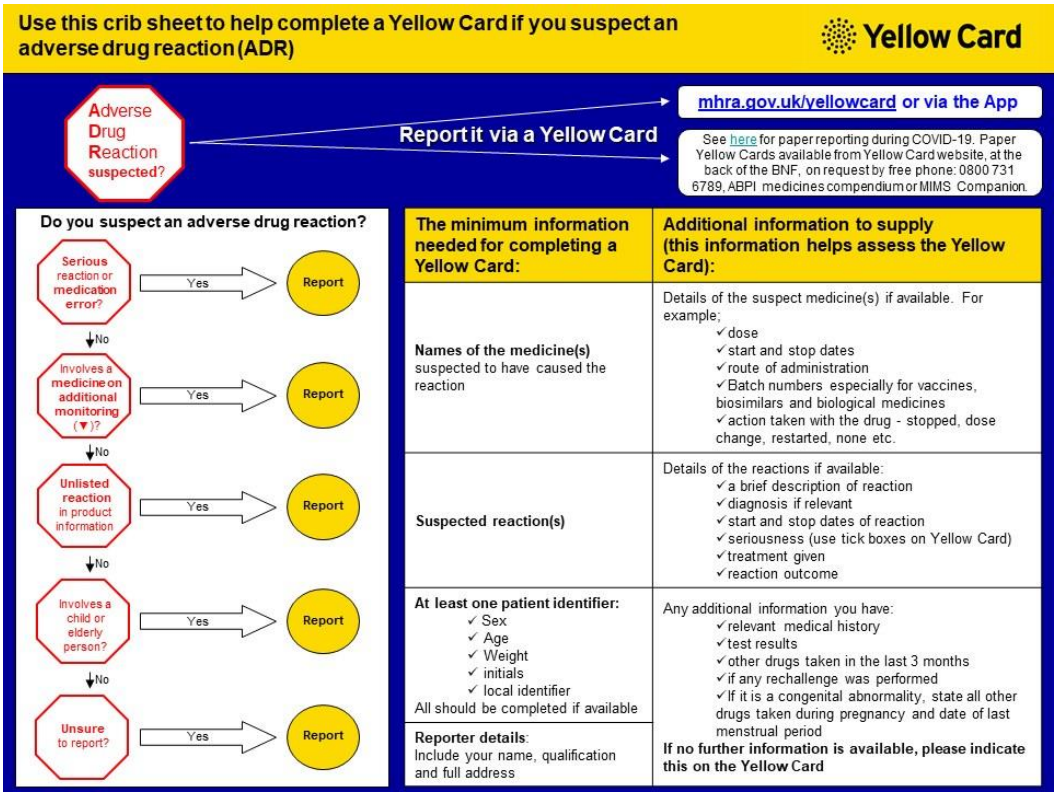
- *Drug name*
- *One patient identifier; this can be either the patient's initials, gender, CHI or date of birth*
- *The nature of the ADR*
- *Is the ADR still occurring or has it resolved*
- *Is the reaction serious*

Additional optional information can be provided if you wish.

When should you report an ADR?

- *Yellow Card reports should be made for all suspected ADRs in adults and children that are: serious, medically significant, or result in harm.*
- *If there's any doubt about whether to report a suspected ADR, a Yellow Card should be completed.*
- *The Yellow Card Scheme can be used for all medicines and medical devices.*
- *It's particularly important to report any ADRs associated with Black triangle drugs ▼, these are newer medicines that require additional monitoring.*
- *Yellow Card reports are particularly important for suspected ADRs: in children, the elderly, when related to biological medicines and vaccines, are associated with delayed drug effects and interactions or are linked to complementary/homeopathic remedies.*

This crib sheet can be used to help you complete a Yellow Card if you suspect an ADR.



Training

If you are unsure or would like more information on yellow card reporting, there is e-learning tailored for specific healthcare professionals available on the MHRA website. The MHRA developed these modules jointly with the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME), the Centre for Postgraduate Pharmacy Professional Education (CPPE) and the Nursing Times; some of these modules are free but you may need to be registered with the relevant organisation to access others.

Turas

There are 6 free e-learning modules created by YCC Scotland and NHS Education for Scotland (NES) on Turas, search "adverse drug reactions" to find them. Why not complete these during #MedSafetyWeek?

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