

# **PE2086/E: Recognise the vaccine injured and offer appropriate treatment**

## **Scottish Government submission of 5 July 2024**

**The requirement to inform recipients about the side effects and obtain informed consent before administering a vaccination is being followed in practice.**

Through the pandemic, we gave, and continue to give, recipients of the COVID-19 vaccines as much information on the potential side effects as possible. Information on the potential side effects is provided with each appointment letter via the accompanying leaflet. These have clear links to further detailed information via NHS Inform and the Medicine's and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

Patients are given further side effect materials at their appointments, including our NHS side effect leaflet and the individual's manufacturer's 'Patient Information Leaflets'. These provide patients with clear information detailing the possible risks and side effects in order for them to make an informed decision about whether they wish to receive a vaccination or not. Patient information leaflets can also be found on NHS Inform.

Should a patient have any further queries, staff at clinics are trained to answer any questions about side effects and each patient must give informed consent before receiving a vaccination.

**Specialist diagnostic testing and specialist treatment, as set out by the petitioner in [his submission](#), is available when required**

Every patient should be assessed individually for their symptoms and offered the most appropriate treatment. There is currently no specialist diagnostic testing for COVID-19 vaccine related harm, but there are other ways in which a patient may be diagnosed. As noted in our response to the original petition, it may often be the case that a clinician simply cannot determine the cause of a person's symptoms or illness.

An example of diagnosis would be if a patient presents with a particular condition. They could be tested to confirm that they have that condition and it may be a condition that is a known side effect of the COVID-19 vaccines. Further tests or clinical assessment could be done to rule in or out other likely causes, such as COVID-19 infection or other infections, but ultimately there may be nothing definitive that can fully confirm whether the condition is due to receiving the vaccine. Regardless of how the individual contracted the condition, they would be offered the same treatment as any other patient.

**Healthcare providers are aware of the possible side effects of Covid-19 vaccines and apply this knowledge when considering treatment for symptoms which may have arisen as a result of vaccination**

Clinicians are aware of sources they can refer to, should they believe that a patient's symptoms are directly related to a COVID-19 vaccine. They would typically refer to clinical guidance from the normal sources such as the [COVID-19: the green book, chapter 14a - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) or the MHRA website.

An extremely rare, recognised side effect of the COVID-19 vaccines has been myocarditis and pericarditis. These conditions can be caused by a number of different factors; not just COVID-19 vaccines. The treatment of these conditions would be exactly the same for those who contracted it via the vaccines, as those who have it for another reason.

If however, as with all illnesses, new research suggested that the presentation of COVID-19 vaccine-related illnesses, such as myocarditis / pericarditis, was somehow different in presentation to the "regular" condition, and therefore required different treatment, then clinical advice and guidance would change.

**Population Health Directorate**