Yellow fever vaccination: important new guidance for health professionals

Guidance for health professionals managing clinical incidents or adverse vaccine associated events related to yellow fever vaccination

On 27 January 2020, the UK Health Security Agency (formally known as Public Health England) published guidance [1] on the recommended immediate management of:

- Persons who are well or unwell following inadvertent administration of yellow fever (YF) vaccine (i.e. where there was a contraindication to yellow fever vaccination).
- Persons experiencing a YF vaccine associated severe adverse event.

This guidance is for health professionals working in Yellow Fever Vaccination Centres (YFVCs) and those providing medical care to persons who are well or unwell following inadvertent administration of the vaccine, or those who are vaccinated appropriately, but who develop a vaccine associated adverse event following vaccination.

As well as providing a background to the recommendations, included in the guidance are:

- A flow chart of actions to be taken.
- A surveillance form on which to document an incident or severe adverse event (including medical and travel history).
- Definition of roles and responsibilities of the reporting and supervising clinical teams.

Health professionals working in UKYFVCs should read this guidance in its entirety, ensure the information is disseminated widely to the clinical team and applied in clinical practice.

Travellers who receive YF vaccine should be informed by the administering health professional about the early signs and symptoms of YF vaccine side effects and need to urgently seek medical attention if serious side effects are suspected [2].

The full guidance is available from UK Health Security Agency (formally known as Public Health England):

- Guidance in the event of yellow fever vaccination in travellers with a contraindication or report of a yellow fever vaccine associated serious adverse event

Resources

- NaTHNaC Advice Line for health professionals
- UK Health Security Agency: The Green Book, Immunisation against infectious disease, Chapter 35: Yellow Fever
- UK Health Security Agency. Yellow fever - guidance, data and analysis
- Yellow fever factsheet

REFERENCES

1. UK Health Security Agency (formally known as Public Health England). Guidance in the Event of Yellow Fever Vaccination in Travellers with a Contraindication or Report of a Yellow Fever Vaccine Associated Serious Adverse Event. December 2019 [Accessed 27 January 2020]
2. MHRA, PHE, NaTHNaC, HPS Yellow fever vaccine: stronger precautions in people with weakened immunity and those aged 60 years or older November 21, 2019 [Accessed 27 January 2020]