

ROLE OF POLICE DEPARTMENT IN RARE AND SERIOUS ADVERSE EVENTS FOLLOWING IMMUNIZATION

In case of an Adverse Event following immunization victim assistance and appropriate protection, care and attention to be provided to victims and witnesses.

The police officer/inspector and the medical officer/district immunization officer investigating the case shall ensure that all serious AEFI cases are provided immediate assistance (e.g. hospitalization, transport to medical facility). If postmortem examination of the case is required, the Department of Health shall provide the necessary assistance.

Documentation and transportation of sample to laboratory:

The completed requisition form sealed with the same official stamp should accompany the samples sent to the laboratory. The official seal will ensure that the samples and details sent to the laboratory are not tempered/ changed during transportation.

Vaccines and diluents are tested simultaneously; therefore freeze dried vaccine (BCG, Measles and JE) should be accompanied by their respective diluents.

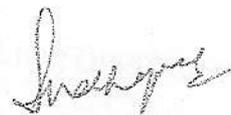
Investigation/ Interrogation of the Vaccinator, if needed:

One of the person who may need to be investigated /interrogated in case of serious AEFI is the vaccinator (ANM, Nurse, MPW, Alternate Vaccinator and others)

The investigating officer along with the District Immunization officer (DIO)/Medical Officer (PHC) may probe the vaccinator in order to gather adequate information which may enable the state to perform the casualty assessment. This will help in monitoring the immunization safety, detecting and responding to adverse events following immunization, correcting unsafe immunization practices, reducing the negative impact of the event on health and contributing to the quality of immunization activities.

The police while investigating the matter in case of serious AEFI, which had resulted in death, shall always keep the perspective that the event /incident might be just coincidental and/or reaction to the vaccine and it may not be the criminal negligence of the vaccinator and/or other workers for which causality assessment report by an expert, based on detailed lab investigation of the vaccine and associated material, is needed.

A copy of various investigations/reports generated on the AEFI, from PHC level to the State level may be collected by the Police Officer/Investigating Officer, from concerned health authorities of the district.



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