

Call for endorsement of the VAERS Project

**Call for Endorsement of the VAERS Project, educating health care personnel on VAERS.
2022 United States Health Freedom Congress, St. Paul Minnesota
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Submitted by Hoosiers for Medical Liberty

The VAERS Project is a grassroots nurse-driven initiative for research and education on the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS).¹ VAERS is a passive national early warning system to detect possible safety problems in U.S. authorized and licensed vaccines. It is dependent on spontaneous manual submission of adverse events by providers, patients, family members, and caregivers.²

Due to its passive nature, the number of reports made is estimated to be shockingly low.^{10, 11} The shortcomings of VAERS are widely known and discussed. However, no action is being taken to rectify poor reporting numbers. Formal education to address the lack of knowledge among medical personnel, including legal obligations, should be the first step. The information available about VAERS is scattered throughout a maze of webpages run by Health and Human Services³ (HHS), Food and Drug Administration⁴ (FDA), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention⁵ (CDC). To compound the problem further, definitions and expectations are less than clear. Defining an adverse event and clearcut instructions on what should be reported, outside of 'table events,'⁶ is nearly nonexistent.

The VAERS Project¹ aims to ascertain a baseline level of knowledge and provide educational material for an accurate understanding of VAERS through continuing education for medical personnel. The VAERS Project will not only provide education, but also bring awareness to the VAERS Electronic Support for Public Health⁷ (ESP) system. VAERS ESP reduces barriers often reported by medical personnel including time constraints and presence of adequate information.

ESP technology was created at Harvard Medical School with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.⁸ The technology was supported by CDC, NIH, and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology.⁸ The VAERS ESP application is able to identify adverse events, alert the provider, and automatically complete VAERS reports for common or low acuity adverse events.^{9, 10, 11, 12, 13}

The education of practitioners and recognition of ESP VAERS technology are imperative to maximize the rapid identification and reporting of adverse events. Utilizing these key tools, the VAERS Project will improve patient safety and vaccine science.

Clinical trials are used to determine an adequate level of safety to be introduced into the public, however some rare adverse events might not be detected until a vaccination is rolled out into the general population.^{4, 10} Improving VAERS reporting accuracy in quality and quantity will add data and validity to vaccine safety science. As the data grows, scientists may be able to identify sub-populations with greater risk factors for adverse events. As a result, refined risk benefit

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analysis will be developed. Treatment protocols for when adverse events and injury occur may become more widely known, further improving patient outcomes.

As conversations about adverse events and VAERS reports occur, stigmas and taboos will begin to deteriorate. Patients will be more willing to share their experiences and healthcare providers will be more likely to consider a potential adverse event and then take the next step to investigate and report the occurrence. This is the culture of safety we need to create so that trust in the science of medicine can be restored.

Interested parties can visit VAERSproject.com to take the healthcare personnel survey, access preliminary results, and most importantly, the educational piece. The education consists of a history of VAERS, and learning objectives include the learner being able to define the purpose of VAERS, an adverse event, Vaccine Injury Compensation Program¹⁴ (VICP), Countermeasure Injury Compensation Program¹⁵ (CICP), legal reporting obligations, the program's importance, complete a report, perform patient education, and describe VAERS ESP.

The information will be freely available to all so that grassroots efforts can ensure that rapid quality education is spread throughout the United States. Ultimately, resulting in healthcare providers and facilities incorporating this information into initial and annual training. Until that is a reality, the best way to create change within the healthcare system is by allowing nurses and other healthcare professionals to do what they do best, advocate for their patients with compassion, perseverance, and strength by educating their peers!

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following Voting Members of the US Health Freedom Congress do endorse the initiation of The VAERS Project via the grassroots health freedom groups around the United States.

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