

Institute for Safe Medication Practices
200 Lakeside Drive, Suite 200, Horsham, PA 19044
www.ismp.org

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CONTACT: Renee Brehio, Media Relations, ISMP
704-831-8822, rbrehio@ismp.org

**ISMP Launches New Vaccine
Error Reporting Program**

Horsham, Pa---Errors in vaccine administration are common, but relatively little data is available on why they happen. The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) has launched its third national patient safety reporting program to capture the unique causes and consequences of vaccine-related errors. The ISMP National Vaccine Error Reporting Program (ISMP VERP) allows healthcare practitioners to report errors and near misses in confidence.

To report a vaccine error, go to: <http://verp.ismp.org/>. Healthcare professionals from all practice settings—including physicians’ offices—are encouraged to report all mistakes related to vaccines, regardless of whether any harm resulted from the incident.

“The new reporting program will help fuel collaborative efforts to prevent errors related to vaccine use,” said Michael Cohen, President of ISMP. “With the assistance of the healthcare community, we will be able to better quantify the sources of errors and advocate for vaccine name, labeling, device, information, and other needed product changes to ensure patient safety.”

The ISMP VERP joins the Institute’s National Medication Error Reporting Program (ISMP MERP) and Consumer Medication Error Reporting Program. The ISMP VERP was designed with the assistance of the California Department of Public Health and with input from experts in the field.

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“The process of getting patients vaccinated can be challenging, because of the diversity in how vaccines are labeled, packaged, stored and administered,” says Deborah Wexler, MD, Executive Director of the Immunization Action Coalition. “ISMP’s vaccine error reporting program is an exciting new development that will provide more specific information on the many different types of errors that occur and allow us to develop effective prevention strategies.”

As with all ISMP reporting programs, reports sent to the ISMP VERP will be shared with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). They also will be forwarded to the vaccine manufacturer when applicable. The Institute also plans to work with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on information received to address vaccine-related safety.

For more on ISMP’s error reporting programs for healthcare practitioners, visit:

www.ismp.org/orderforms/reporterrortoismv.asp. For more on ISMP’s error reporting program specifically designed for consumers, go to: <http://www.consumermedsafety.org/report-a-medication-error>.

About ISMP: The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) is an independent, nonprofit charitable organization that works closely with healthcare practitioners and institutions, regulatory agencies, consumers, and professional organizations to provide education about medication errors and their prevention. ISMP represents more than 35 years of experience in helping healthcare practitioners keep patients safe, and continues to lead efforts to improve the medication use process. ISMP is a federally certified patient safety organization (PSO), providing healthcare practitioners and organizations with the highest level of legal protection and confidentiality for patient safety data and error reports they submit to the Institute. For more information on ISMP, or its medication safety alert newsletters and other tools for healthcare professionals and consumers, visit www.ismp.org

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