



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

No. 2011 - 0308

**TO: ALL CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT (CHD),
PROVINCIAL HEALTH OFFICES (PHO), CITY HEALTH OFFICES
(CHO), MUNICIPAL HEALTH OFFICES (MHO), AND CHIEFS OF
HOSPITALS**

**SUBJECT: Strengthening Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI)
Surveillance and Response at all levels**

DATE: November 2, 2011

Immunization is still the most effective way of reducing the incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases. However, as with all medications, no vaccine is totally safe. Vaccines can induce minor adverse events and very rarely, they can induce serious adverse events which resulted to loss of public confidence in the vaccination program.

During the National AEFI Committee meeting last July 26, 2011, the board noted that most of the reported AEFI has insufficient data for causality assessment. Thus, the National AEFI Committee (NAEFIC) recommended strengthening and standardizing the surveillance and response to AEFI to minimize, if not eliminate, the negative impact of such event/s to the immunization program. For this reason, the following documents are required to be submitted at the national level to facilitate an evidence-based causality assessment:

A. AEFI Case Investigation Form (CIF)

- All Disease Surveillance Coordinators who are in-charge of case detection, reporting, and investigation of notifiable diseases, syndromes, and events shall facilitate completion of CIF once alleged AEFI case is detected.
- Completely filled-up CIF shall be submitted simultaneously to the next higher level and to NEC within 24 hours.

B. WHO Guide Questionnaires

- WHO Guide Questionnaires about the patient, vaccine storage, and vaccinator shall be filled-up and submitted to NEC through RESU immediately after completion of investigation.

C. Hospital Records

- DSCs and surveillance officers should have access to medical records and should be allowed to photocopy the hospital records of AEFI Case.

D. Preliminary Investigation Report

- Status of investigation, actions taken, and preliminary causality assessment conducted by the AEFI committee at local level should be included in this report.

E. Death Certificate/Autopsy Result

- In case the alleged case of AEFI dies, the surveillance officer/coordinator shall submit the aforementioned document/s to NEC to determine cause of death.

In view of this, all CHDs/PHOs/CHOs/MHOs and Chiefs of Hospitals are hereby directed to strengthen adverse events following immunization (AEFI) surveillance at sub-national levels.

For your immediate compliance.



ENRIQUE T. ONA, MD, FPCS, FACS
Secretary of Health