Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)

*In 1986 the US government barred parents from suing pharmaceutical companies for vaccine injuries and set up the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), a little known mechanism whereby parents of vaccine-injured children can voluntarily report such injuries and seek compensation from the government. Due to its obscurity, less than 1% of injuries are reported to VAERS, according to https://healthit.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/docs/publication/r18hs017045-lazarus-final-report-2011.pdf

*Even though it is a poor barometer of vaccine hazards, VAERS data is intimately involved in the licensing of vaccines. First, pre-licensure of a vaccine is obtained by comparing a vaccine to another vaccine or to non-viral vaccine contents; never to a placebo which is the honored gold standard of scientific comparisons. After that limited formality is completed, post-licensure is determined by comparing the number of injuries reported to VAERS, as well as the cases adjudicated with the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, versus the number of vaccines distributed nationwide. Obviously, distribution does not equal the number of vaccines actually used, and compensated injuries are admittedly a tiny fraction of the actual injuries known to occur.

*Vaccine package inserts admit that product trials followed the subjects for only four to five days to monitor for adverse reactions. These trials are the only safety monitoring that occurs prior to FDA approval and licensing. This is why reporting vaccine adverse reactions to VAERS is essential to assess more accurately the injuries caused by vaccines often required for school and employment.

*The VAERS Awareness Project post-it-note highlights the various known injuries that have been compensated for through the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program. 4/19 - $4.1 billion

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