



DARK SIDE OF MEDICINE



MEDICINE SAFETY SERIES

MS-12

How to Report a Suspected Side Effect MHRA Yellow Card

A practical guide to preparing and submitting a Yellow Card report.

darksideofmedicine.org

© Deborah Mann 2026

Version 1.0



What is the Yellow Card Scheme?

The MHRA Yellow Card Scheme is the UK system for reporting suspected side effects and other safety concerns involving medicines and healthcare products. Patients and carers can make reports themselves.

You do not need to prove that a medicine caused the reaction.

A Yellow Card is for reporting a suspected adverse reaction or safety concern.

Setting Up an Account

A Yellow Card account is optional. If you choose to create one, follow the current instructions on the official Yellow Card website. An account can be useful if you expect to use the service again. You can prepare the information below before signing in.

Before You Start

- Medicine name and, if known, brand
- Dose and how often it was taken
- When treatment started and stopped, if applicable
- What happened and when the suspected reaction began
- What happened after the reaction began
- Other medicines being taken at the time
- Relevant medical history
- Tests, treatment or hospital care related to the reaction



Prepare Your Medicine Details

Medicine / brand: _____
Dose: _____
How often taken: _____
Date started: _____ Date stopped: _____

Describe the Suspected Reaction

What happened?

When did it begin?

What happened afterwards?

- ☐ The reaction improved
- ☐ The reaction continued
- ☐ The reaction became worse
- ☐ Treatment was needed
- ☐ The medicine was stopped
- ☐ The dose was changed
- ☐ The medicine was restarted
- ☐ The reaction continued or appeared after treatment stopped

Other Medicines

Relevant Medical History



Completing the Yellow Card

Use the information you have prepared to complete the current Yellow Card form. Give as much useful detail as you can. If you do not know every detail, this should not prevent you from reporting a suspected reaction.

A Useful Order

- Identify the medicine or product
- Enter the dose and treatment dates
- Describe the suspected reaction
- Explain when it started and what happened afterwards
- Add other medicines and relevant medical history
- Add relevant tests, treatment or hospital care
- Review the information before submitting

After You Submit

Keep the confirmation or reference with your medicine records if this is useful. The MHRA may contact a reporter if further information is needed.

My Yellow Card Record

Date submitted: _____

Reference / confirmation: _____

Medicine reported: _____

Anything I need to follow up: _____

Important

The Yellow Card Scheme is for reporting safety concerns; it is not a medical advice service. If you are worried about symptoms or treatment, contact an appropriate healthcare professional. Seek urgent medical help for a medical emergency.

Official Yellow Card Service

Use the official MHRA Yellow Card website for the current reporting form, account instructions and reporting options. This resource is designed to help you prepare; it does not reproduce the online form.

Related Resources

MS-01 7-Day Medicine Monitoring Diary
MS-02 Raising Concerns About a Medicine
MS-06 Medicine Timeline
MS-09 Understanding Polypharmacy