

# Traveller Information Sheets



## Adverse Events

### *What is an Adverse Event?*

An adverse event is “any unwanted medical reaction or an unfavourable or unintended symptom, disease or sign in a patient who has been administered a medicine or vaccine.<sup>1</sup>”

### *Who can have an adverse event?*

Anyone can experience an adverse event.

- Adverse events are suspected of being related to a medicine, but this relationship is usually not certain - it may be related to other factors.
- There might be no relationship between the adverse event and the medicine / vaccine administered - it may be a coincidence that the adverse event occurred when the medicine was taken / vaccine was given.

### *How can we prevent an adverse event?*

It is impossible to predict who may be at risk of experiencing an adverse event. Before administration of any medications or vaccines, a thorough screening is performed on every patient. Sometimes there are indications that some people may experience an adverse event, but mostly there is no indication.

### *What do I do if I have had an adverse event before?*

During the consultation with your health care provider you should mention the nature of the adverse event you previously experienced and what you think may have caused it. If you have any medical discharge forms or specialist reports, you are invited to provide a copy of these at the time of your consultation.

### *What if I have an adverse event at your travel clinic?*

Travellers are in very capable hands as a patient of this travel clinic. A staff member will remain with you during the administration of any medications or vaccinations. You are required to wait on our premises for 20 minutes following any medication or vaccination administration. Our policy on adverse events outlines the procedure we follow in the event of an adverse event.

To see a copy of the policy – please ask the travel nurse or a member of the reception staff.

## *Reference*

Australian Government, Department of Health 2014, viewed 1<sup>st</sup> March 2014, <[www.immunise.health.gov.au](http://www.immunise.health.gov.au)>

Therapeutic Goods Administration 2013, TGA, Symonston ACT Australia, viewed 14<sup>th</sup> April 2014 <<http://www.tga.gov.au/safety/daen-about.htm#causality>>