Refills

Your dose of drug information in between details

## Why and how should adverse drug reactions be reported?

#### Why report adverse drug reactions?

- Some adverse drug reactions may become evident only after a health product (pharmaceutical, natural health) product, radiopharmaceutical, disinfectant, vaccine or biologic drug) is used by patients or consumers. Your report helps indicate whether there is a potential safety issue with a particular health product
- Reporting suspected adverse reactions helps Health Canada monitor the safety profile of health products once they are marketed, to ensure that benefits continue to outweigh the risks

### What is Vanessa's Law?

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- Vanessa's Law is named after Vanessa Young, a 15-year-old girl who died of arrhythmia and cardiac arrest after taking cisapride (Prepulsid<sup>®</sup>), which had been prescribed to her<sup>1</sup>
- Vanessa's Law is officially known as the *Protecting Canadians* from Unsafe Drugs Act
- Vanessa's Law was enacted in 2014. As of December 2019, it mandates the reporting of serious adverse drug reactions and medical device incidents documented by hospitals<sup>1</sup>
- Even if you do not work in a hospital, everyone is encouraged to voluntarily report. "Every report counts. Together they tell a story"2

### Which adverse drug reactions should I voluntarily report?<sup>3</sup>

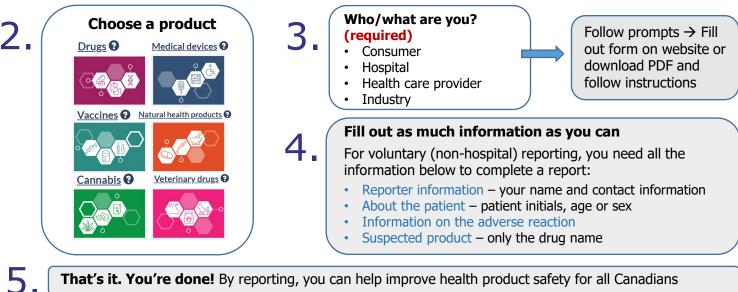
 Any adverse reaction can be reported, even if you only suspect an association with a health product

#### **Consider reporting especially:**

- Unexpected reactions, regardless of severity
- · Serious reactions, whether expected or not
- Reactions related to a newer health product (on the market for less than 5 years)

# Step-by-step guide

Report to the Canada Vigilance Program by visiting Health Canada's Adverse Reaction Reporting page Exception: for vaccines administered in B.C., report to the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), who will send the information to Health Canada. See this one-page resource for instructions



That's it. You're done! By reporting, you can help improve health product safety for all Canadians

#### <sup>1</sup>Health Canada Overview of Vanessa's Law and reporting requirements; <sup>2</sup>Health Canada Adverse Reaction Reporting; <sup>3</sup>Health Canada Report a Side Effect

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