

Spotlight Series

Issue 04/2026

#MedSafetyWeek

'Don't ignore side effects – report them'

Introduction

The Patient Safety Together Spotlight Series highlights patient safety initiatives, examples of shared learning and patient safety content that may impact the wider healthcare audience in Ireland.

In this instalment we shine a spotlight on the yearly international Medication Safety Week 2nd to 8th November 2026. Every year, the campaign promotes reporting suspected side effects to the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA). This year's theme is **"Don't ignore side effects – report them"**.

What is #MedSafetyWeek? (2 - 8 November 2026)

Reporting side effects makes medicines safer for everyone. That's the shared message from medicines regulators in more than 130 countries as they join forces for #MedSafetyWeek, an annual global campaign to promote the reporting of side effects from medicines. In Ireland, the HPRA leads the campaign.

The theme for the 2026 campaign is 'Don't ignore side effects- report them.' During the week of 2-8 November, the HPRA will publish a press release and social media posts to remind everyone to stay alert to possible side effects and report them promptly to the HPRA. The HPRA also invites healthcare professionals and patient organisations to take part in #MedSafetyWeek and help spread this important public health message.

What are the key messages from #MedSafetyWeek?

- * Anyone can report a side effect, including patients, carers, healthcare professionals and members of the public.
- * You can report any side effect, whether it is mild or serious, a known side effect or an unexpected one
- * Even if you are not sure the medicine caused the side effect, you can still report it.
- * You can report directly to the HPRA online, by email, by phone or by post. Visit hpra.ie/report



Date of Issue 22 October 2026

Page 1 | 2



Why is reporting side effects important?

#MedSafetyWeek helps more people understand why reporting side effects matters and how to report them. Reports help regulators such as the HPRA to learn more about a medicine. Each report contributes to a bigger picture to identify potential safety issues sooner. Every report can make a difference to help make medicines safer and protect others from harm.

How to support #MedSafetyWeek?

Anyone interested in medicine safety can support #MedSafetyWeek by:

- sharing the HPRA's social media posts during #MedSafetyWeek or sharing the ready-made animations and graphics on your social media channels
- displaying #MedSafetyWeek posters in hospitals, pharmacies, GP practices and other relevant settings
- using the #MedSafetyWeek background during online meetings
- adding the #MedSafetyWeek email signature to your emails
- sharing information about the campaign on your website, newsletters and other communication channels. You may wish to link to hpra.ie/report or publish our [guide to reporting side effects on](#) your website.



Download [#MedSafetyWeek resources](#)



What is the HPRA?

The HPRA regulate medicines and devices for the benefit of people and animals. Their remit and regulatory functions include human and veterinary medicines, clinical trials, medical devices, controlled drugs, blood and blood components, tissues and cells, and cosmetic products.

Where can I get further information?



Contact communications@hpra.ie for more information about taking part in #MedSafetyWeek.

If you would like to discuss a potential Spotlight Series, please contact patientsafetytogether@hse.ie

Questions about reporting side effects:

- For patients and carers: [Reporting a suspected side effect as a patient or carer](#)
- For healthcare professionals: [Reporting a suspected side effect as a healthcare professional](#)

[Access previous Spotlights](#)

