

WHO TO CONTACT IF YOUR CHILD HAS A VACCINE-RELATED SIDE EFFECT

In the rare event your child has a vaccine-associated injury, or even if you think a medical problem your child has *might* have been caused by a vaccine, you should report the problem.

VAERS stands for the **Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System**. It is a system for reporting injuries suspected of being caused by vaccines. If your child has any unusual illness or reaction after getting a vaccine, whether or not you think the vaccine was the cause, ask your doctor to file a VAERS form. Very often the reactions reported to VAERS turn out not to have been caused by the vaccine at all, but occurred after the vaccination simply by chance. That is okay. One of the purposes of VAERS is to collect enough data to see patterns that might help researchers identify previously unknown side effects, or to show that some reactions are not caused by vaccines. You can also report a vaccine reaction to VAERS yourself. The toll-free information line is 1-800-822-7967.

The **National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program** is a federal program that offers compensation for the care of anyone believed to have been injured by vaccines. For more information, you can call the program toll-free at 1-800-338-2382 or visit their website at <http://www.hrsa.gov/bhpr/vicp>.