

records and/or other appropriate documents, the U.S. Court of Federal Claims' cover sheet, and \$250.00 filing fee with the claim. If you are unable to pay the \$250.00 filing fee, would like to obtain a cover sheet, or need a sample claim, please call the Court at (202) 357-6400.

What is Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)?

VAERS is a Federal program used to report injuries or illnesses that occur after a vaccine is given. Filing a VAERS report is not the same as filing a claim with the VICP. For more information about VAERS, call 1-800-822-7967 or visit www.vaers.hhs.gov.

How do you obtain more information?

For further information and to obtain a copy of "What You Need to Know about the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP)," you may contact the VICP at:

National Vaccine Injury
Compensation Program
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 11C-26
Rockville, MD 20857
1-800-338-2382
www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation

For information about Rules of the Court, including requirements for filing a claim, and/or a list of lawyers who file and handle VICP claims, you may contact:

Clerk
U.S. Court of Federal Claims
717 Madison Place, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 357-6400
www.uscfc.uscourts.gov/osmpage.htm

For additional information about lawyers, you may contact your State or local bar association.



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Health Resources and Services Administration
Healthcare Systems Bureau
Division of Vaccine Injury Compensation
www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation
1-800-338-2382

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THE NATIONAL VACCINE INJURY COMPENSATION PROGRAM (VICP)



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
HRSA
Health Resources and Services Administration

What is the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP)?

Vaccines save lives by preventing disease in the people who receive them. Most people who get vaccines have no serious problems. However, vaccines, like any medicines, can rarely cause serious problems, such as severe allergic reactions. In those rare cases, the VICP, which is a Federal program, provides compensation to people who are found to be injured by certain vaccines.

What vaccines are covered by the VICP?

- Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (DTP, DTaP, Tdap, DT, Td, or TT)
- *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib)
- Hepatitis A (HAV)
- Hepatitis B (HBV)
- Influenza [given each year during flu season]
- Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR, MR, M, R)
- Pneumococcal conjugate (PCV)
- Polio (OPV or IPV)
- Rotavirus (RV)
- Varicella (VZV)
- Any combination of the vaccines listed above
- Additional vaccines may be added in the future

For information about these vaccines, contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Immunization Information Hotline at 1-800-232-2522 or visit their Web site at www.cdc.gov/nip.

Who may file a claim?

- You may file a claim if you received a vaccine covered by the VICP and believe that you have been injured by this vaccine.
- You may file a claim if you are the parent or legal guardian of a child or disabled adult who received a vaccine covered by the VICP, and believe that the person who received it was injured by this vaccine.
- You may file a claim if you are the legal representative of the estate of a deceased person who received a vaccine covered by the VICP and believe that the person's death resulted from the vaccine injury.
- You may file a claim if you are not a United States citizen.
- Some people who receive vaccines outside of the U.S. may be eligible for compensation, but must meet other criteria. For more information on these criteria, call 1-800-338-2382 or visit the VICP Web site at: www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation.

In addition, to be eligible to file a claim, the effects of the person's injury must have: 1) lasted for more than 6 months after the vaccine was given; or 2) resulted in a hospital stay **and** surgery; or 3) resulted in death.

Do you need a lawyer to file a claim?

You do not need a lawyer to file a claim. However, since this is a legal process, most people use a lawyer. If certain minimal requirements are met, the VICP will pay your lawyer's fees and other legal costs related to your claim, whether or not you are paid for the vaccine injury or death. The VICP will not pay

the fees of petitioners representing themselves, but will pay their legal costs, whether or not the claim is paid, as long as certain minimal requirements are met.

What are the deadlines to file a claim?

The general filing deadlines are:

- For an **injury**, your claim must be filed within 3 years after the first symptom of the vaccine injury.
- For a **death**, a claim must be filed within 2 years of the death and 4 years after the start of the first symptom of the vaccine-related injury from which the death occurred.

When a **new vaccine** is covered by the VICP, or when a **new injury/condition** is added to the Vaccine Injury Table (Table), claims that do not meet the general filing deadlines must be filed within 2 years from the date the vaccine or injury/condition is added to the Table for injuries or deaths that occurred up to 8 years before the Table change. The Table lists and explains injuries that are presumed to be caused by vaccines. For more details about the Table, visit www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation.

For example, the hepatitis A vaccine was covered by the VICP as of December 1, 2004. Under the general filing deadline for an injury, the claim must be filed within 3 years after the first symptom of the vaccine injury. However, claims that do not meet the general filing deadline must be filed by December 1, 2006 for injuries or deaths that occurred on or after December 1, 1996.

What do you need to file a claim?

The claim is not filed using a specific form. However, you must include your medical