



Influenza Vaccination Side Effects Information



Potential side effects from the Influenza Vaccine

The Influenza vaccine is generally well tolerated. Most side effects are mild and generally disappear within 24 to 48hrs. The most common side effects generally happen around the injection site.

Common side effects include:

- Redness, swelling and tenderness at the injection site
- Muscle aches and pains
- General tiredness

Less Common side effects include:

- Fever
- Chills
- Headache
- And general feeling of being unwell for 1-2 days.

Please note: This is not the 'FLU'. The Influenza vaccine cannot cause the flu as it does NOT contain a live virus.

More Serious, but rare side effects include:

- Rash like hives, itching, swelling, shortness of breath, breathing or swallowing difficulties
- Sudden drop in blood pressure with increased heart rate,
- Sudden drop in heart rate
- Abdominal cramps.

If any of these serious side effects occur, please notify the vaccination nurse immediately.

Patients with a history of Guillain-Bare Syndrome with an onset related in time to influenza vaccination may be at increased risk of again developing GBS if given the Influenza vaccine.

Please ensure you read the 'Consumer Medicine Information' leaflet that is linked to this website prior to vaccination and talk to your GP or pharmacist if you have any concerns.