



GCC Workshop Highlights Strengthening Medical and Regulatory Frameworks for Vaccine Adverse Events in the GCC

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Leaders and experts meet in Kuwait to share best practices and develop recommendations for stronger vaccine safety frameworks

A regional workshop on Strengthening Medical and Regulatory Frameworks for Vaccine Adverse Events in the GCC brought together policymakers, health experts, and regulatory authorities to enhance collaboration on vaccine safety across the Gulf region.

Organized by the Authority for Medical Responsibility (AMR) – Kuwait, and sponsored and supported by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), the event convened representatives from the Ministry of Health in Kuwait, the Gulf Center for Disease Prevention and Control (GCDC), the GCC Health Ministers Council, and the World Health Organization (WHO)

Why the Workshop Matters?

The workshop provided a regional platform for GCC countries to review national systems, exchange expertise, and strengthen coordination on vaccine safety and adverse event reporting. Participants examined legal, regulatory, and public health mechanisms related to Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) and discussed opportunities for greater regional alignment.



Highlights

Day 1

Policy, Systems, and Country Experiences

Experts explored the role of National Immunization Technical Advisory Groups (NITAGs) in supporting evidence-based vaccination policies and reviewed international practices in immunization safety monitoring.

Presentations included Kuwait's national experience with AEFI reporting, the institutional role of AMR, and global insights from WHO on vaccine safety frameworks and compensation programs. Participants also examined a country case study from Mongolia, illustrating how regulatory updates strengthened vaccine safety systems.

Day 2

Practical Scenarios and GCC Recommendations

Focused on case-based learning, guiding participants through the pathway of vaccine adverse events, from clinical presentation to legal resolution, as real case scenarios were presented and discussed based on complaints submitted to AMR. These cases had undergone investigation processes, including detailed reviews conducted by specialized committees. The discussions incorporated the findings and recommendations outlined in the committee reports, as well as the judicial rulings that were ultimately issued in relation to these cases. Reviewing these real cases allowed participants to better understand how vaccine-related complaints are managed within the medical liability system, from the initial complaint and investigation stages to expert review and final legal adjudication. It also provided valuable insights into the interaction between clinical assessment, regulatory oversight, and judicial decision-making in addressing adverse events and medical liability claims.

Through interactive group sessions, participants identified best practices across GCC countries and developed priority recommendations for regional cooperation, aiming to improve coordination between clinical, regulatory, and legal stakeholders.



Participation in Discussing GCC Experiences and Best Practices



Looking Ahead

The workshop concluded with a shared commitment to continue regional dialogue and collaboration, supporting stronger medical and regulatory frameworks for vaccine safety throughout the Gulf region. The insights and recommendations generated will contribute to ongoing GCC efforts to enhance immunization governance and public health protection.

Key Takeaways

- Stronger coordination between health, regulatory, and legal sectors is essential for effective vaccine safety systems.
- Sharing regional experiences and international guidance supports more resilient policies.
- GCC collaboration can help harmonize approaches to vaccine safety monitoring and frameworks.

“Regional collaboration is essential for strengthening vaccine safety systems and ensuring public confidence in immunization programs across the GCC.”



Dr. Salman Al-Sabah President of AMR honoring Dr. Pasi Penttinen, CEO at Gulf Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (GCDC)



Dr. Pasi Penttinen, CEO at Gulf Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (GCDC) with Dr. Assad Hafeez WHO Representative in the State of Kuwait