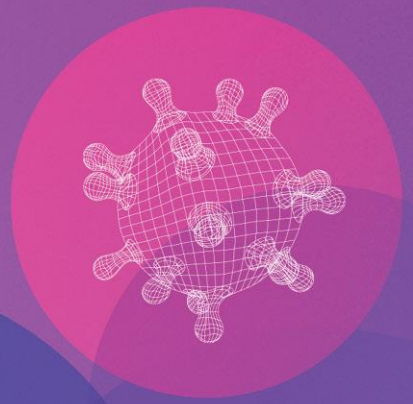
COVID Vaccines: Brief Comparison of Immune-Mediated Adverse Events

Jennifer Mbuthia, MD

May 6, 2021



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

FIGHT COVID-19 | GET VACCINATED

THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

Immediate Allergic Reaction (Anaphylaxis)

- Usually within 15-30 minutes from exposure (bee sting, peanut, shellfish allergy)
- Reaction is systemic (hives all over, respiratory issues, cardiovascular issues)
- Initial treatment: Epinephrine Auto-Injector (Epipen)
- Potentially life-threatening. Needs allergy evaluation prior to receiving any future COVID vaccines.

Delayed Hypersensitivity Reaction

- Onset usually 24-72 hours after exposure (Poison ivy, nickel, contact allergy with cosmetics)
- Reaction is LOCALIZED. Some people with dermal fillers have swelling 24 hours after a vaccine.
- Symptomatic treatment: oral steroids, anti-inflammatory meds for discomfort. This does NOT evolve into anaphylaxis.
- Not life-threatening. Can receive future COVID vaccines.

Antibody-Mediated Reaction

- Onset 7-45 days after immunization or exposure/infection. (J&J Vaccine and blood clots, Guillian-Barre Syndrome (neurologic condition), Serum Sickness)
- Body makes antibodies inappropriately. The antibodies start binding to things and trigger downstream effects.
- Treatment depends on the clinical condition. Goal is to turn-down the immune system response.
- Conditions may be life-threatening. Depending on the trigger, a DIFFERENT vaccine MAY be considered after allergy/immunology consult.

COVID Vaccine Clinical Advisory Committee (VCAC)

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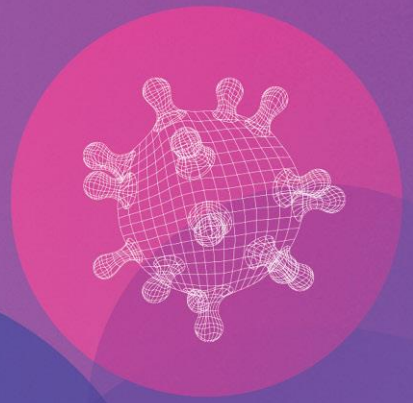


THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

Background

- Clinicians across the QHS had clinical questions about patients with an adverse event following immunization.
- Information and questions were coming to various people via a variety of channels – no consistency for how to report clinical concerns.
- No centralized tracking for issues and/or follow up on events.

The Role of the QHS COVID Vaccine Clinical Advisory Committee (VCAC)

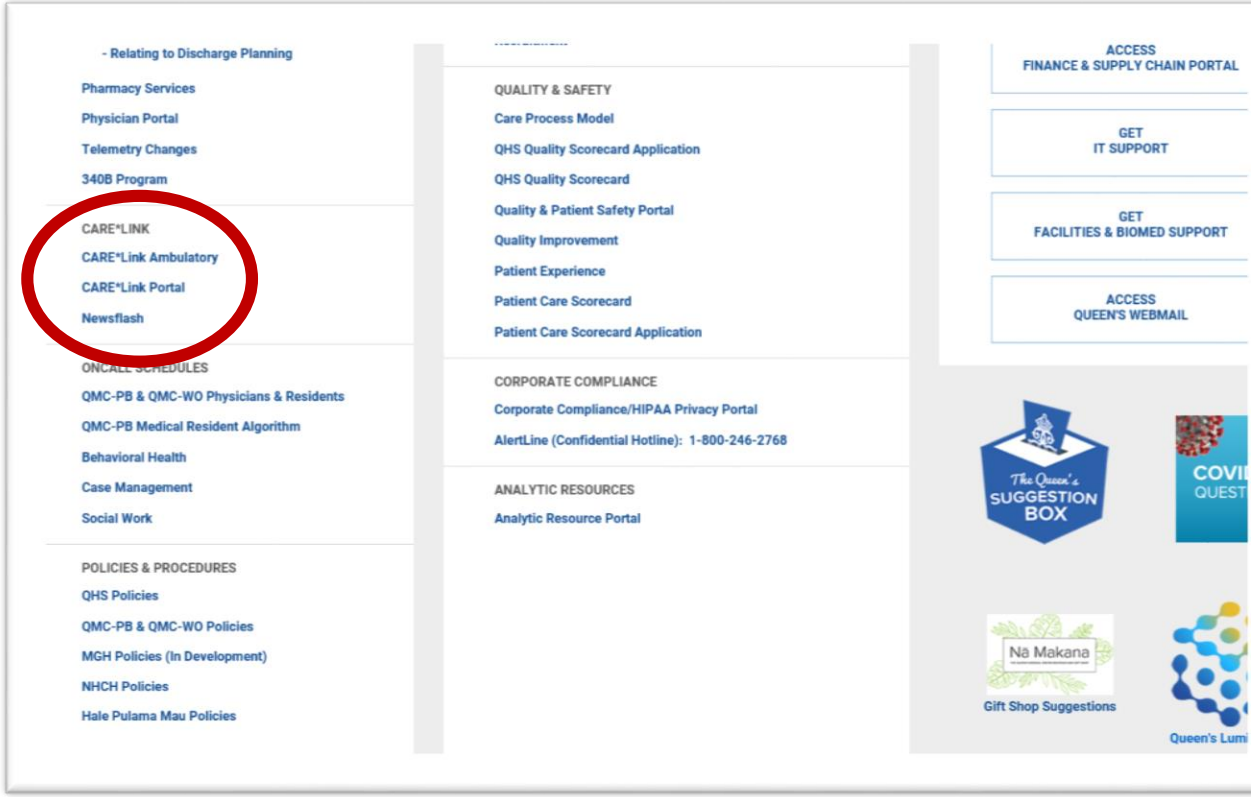
- Created in March to streamline how clinical events after COVID immunization are being captured and also reviewed by a multi-D healthcare team.

- VCAC provides consistency regarding VAERS reports being submitted, and may provide written communication back to the patient or to their primary care provider if specific recommendations are being made by the committee.

- VCAC meets weekly to discuss new case submissions, follow-up on existing cases, and discuss larger clinical issues surrounding COVID immunization.
  - Review of COVID vaccination site Anaphylaxis Protocol
  - Establishing a Vasovagal Syncope Protocol
  - Standardized intake form for COVID Hotline staff when patients call with non-emergency concerns about their COVID vaccine that cannot easily be addressed by existing clinical advice protocols.

How to Report a Clinical Case to VCAC

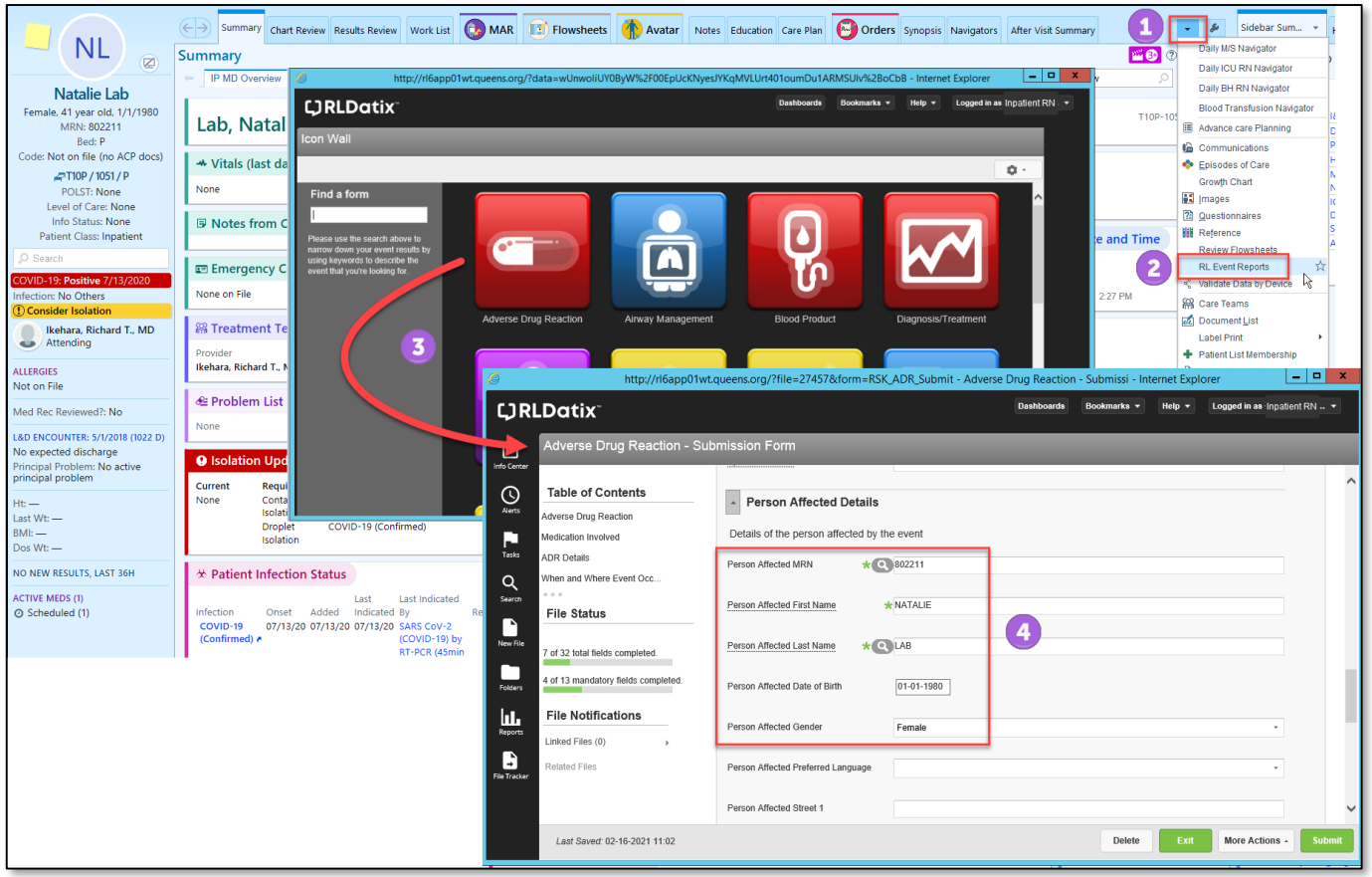
- **RL Event Report** (available through CARE*Link)
  - Adverse Drug Event
  - The patient does not need to have received the COVID vaccine from a QHS site.
  - If they are being seen/managed by a Queen's provider, the RL report should be submitted.
  - The March 12th CARE*Link Newsflash contains same information on next few slides
  - If the reporting clinician does not have access to the RL Reporting System, please email VCAC@queens.org with the following:
    - MR#
    - Date of vaccination & which vaccine given
    - Which vaccination location administered it
    - Brief summary of clinical issue that may be related to vaccination



RL Event Report Access is Now Easier - Patient Related Events

Effective March 9, 2021– All Campuses – **Inpatient and Ambulatory**

You are now be able to submit an RL event report from within CARE*Link! Additionally, you will be **auto logged into** the RL system and the **patient information will automatically populate**!



1. Click on the **dropdown arrow** on the right side of the chart
2. Select **RL Event Reports**
3. Select the **appropriate event type**
4. Complete and submit the event report as usual

Note: The patient information/ demographics automatically populate!

Questions? Please contact IT Help Desk at 691-4357

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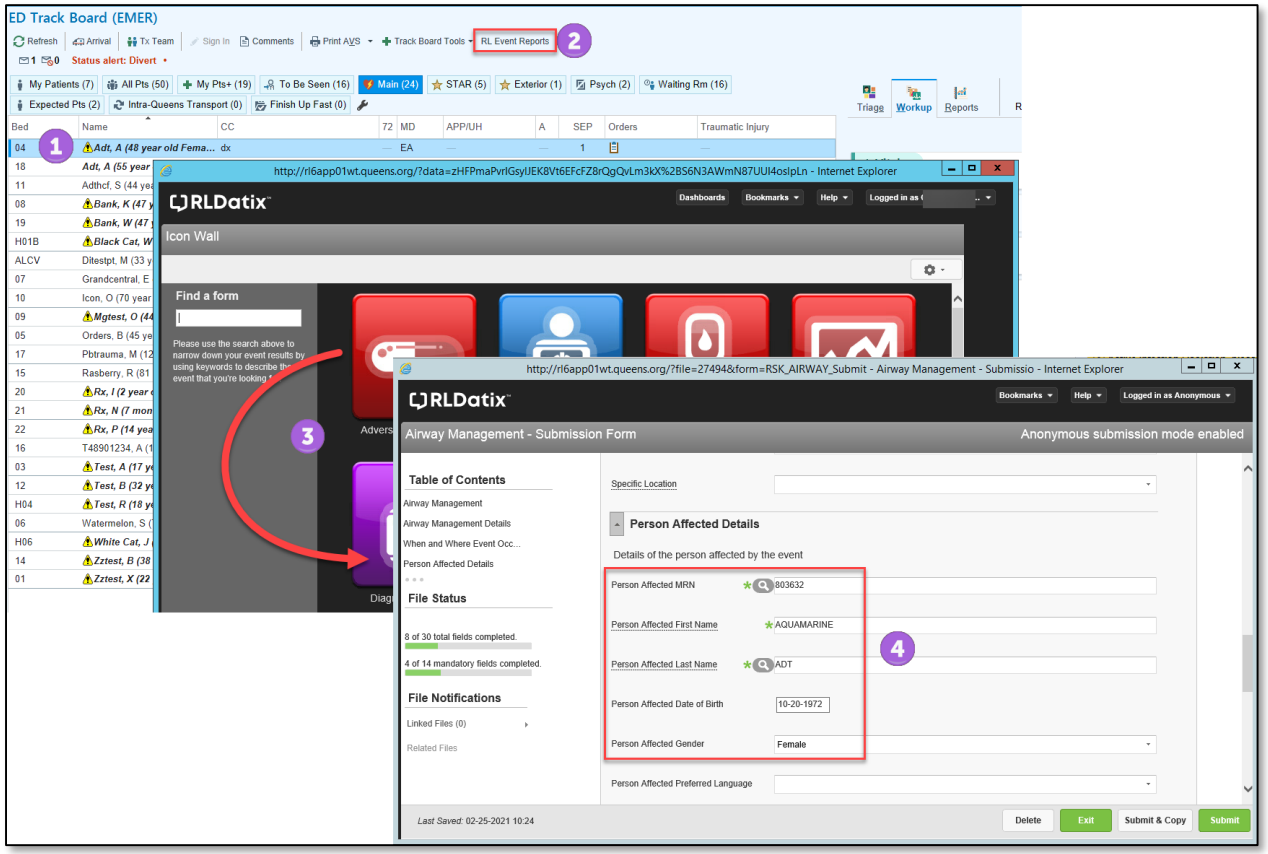
RL Event Report Access is Now Easier - Patient Related Events

Effective March 9, 2021– All Campuses – **Emergency Department**

You are now be able to submit an RL event report from within CARE*Link! Additionally, you will be **auto logged into** the RL system and the **patient information will automatically populate**!

ED Providers and Nursing: ED Track Board



1. Select the patient
2. Select **RL Event Reports** button in the toolbar
3. Select the **appropriate event type**
4. Complete and submit the event report as usual

Note: The patient information/ demographics automatically populate!

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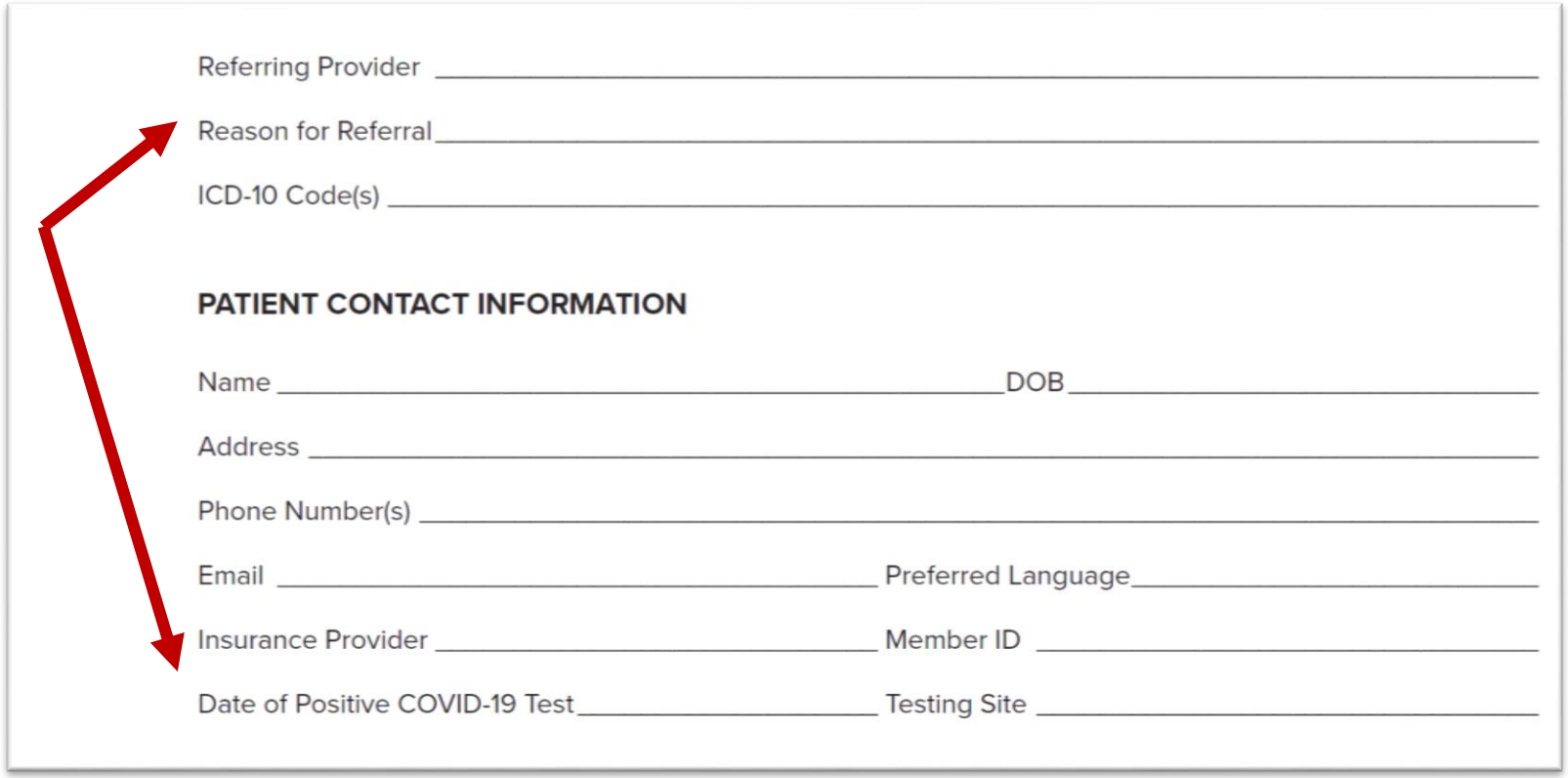
COVID Vaccine Related Allergy/Immunology Consultations Available at QEC

- Nested under the Post-COVID Care Clinic
  - Link to the Post-COVID Care Clinic: https://covid.queens.org/clinic/
  - Link to submit a referral: https://covid.queens.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Post-COVID_Provider_Referral_Form_LIVE_FILE.pdf
- Telemedicine consults/virtual consults available for NH and MGH
- If a patient already has a community allergist, please inform them to follow-up with their allergist.

Post-COVID Care Clinic Referral Form

Specify this is for post-VACCINE evaluation and include DATE OF VACCINATION.

Also submit an RL Event Report for VCAC tracking.



Referring Provider _____

Reason for Referral _____

ICD-10 Code(s) _____

PATIENT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name _____ DOB _____

Address _____

Phone Number(s) _____

Email _____ Preferred Language _____

Insurance Provider _____ Member ID _____

Date of Positive COVID-19 Test _____ Testing Site _____