FDA GHANA FOOD AND DRUGS AUTHORITY

Your Well-being, Our Priority.

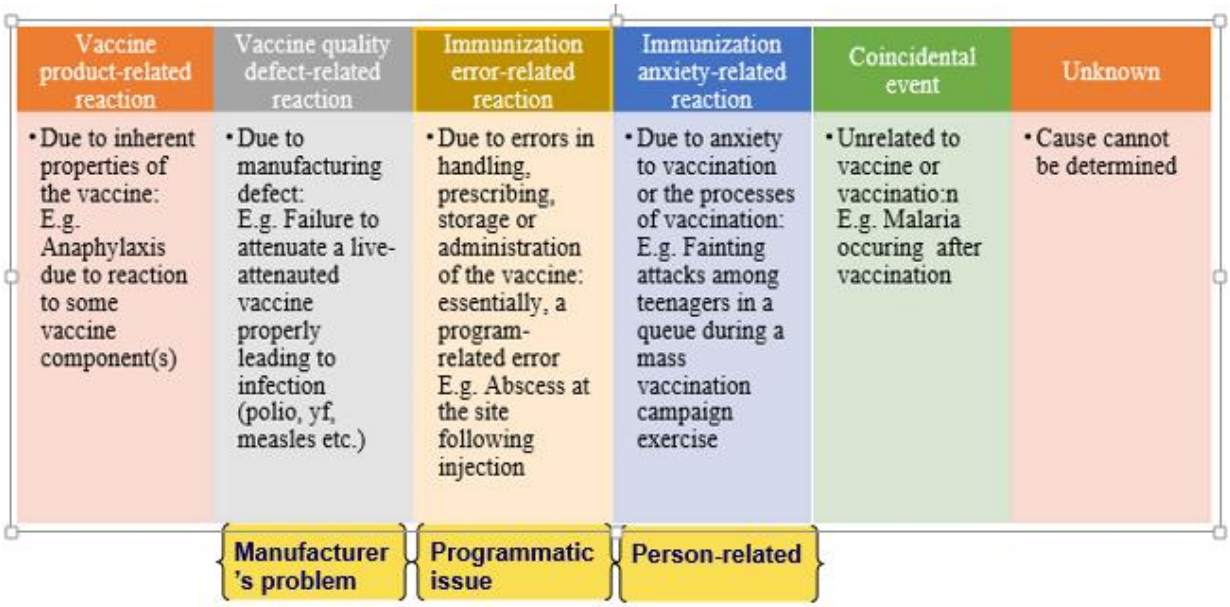
Adverse Events Following Immunisation (AEFI)

Vaccines used in national programmes are considered safe and effective when used correctly. Careful procedures are followed before vaccines are registered for use. However, no vaccine is “perfect” and entirely without risk. After immunization, some people may experience reactions ranging from mild local reactions to life-threatening symptoms or in rare cases, frank illnesses. These adverse events following immunization (AEFI) may be true reactions caused by the vaccine or its products or by an error in the administration of the vaccine or in most cases, may be unrelated to the vaccine or its administration (i.e. there is no causal relationship).

Whatever the cause, AEFI upsets people to the extent that they refuse further immunizations for their children and themselves. As a result, the population, especially children, are put at risk of Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPDs). Public trust in vaccine safety is key to the success of vaccination programmes.

An AEFI is any untoward medical occurrence which follows immunization and which does not necessarily have a causal relationship with the usage of the vaccine. The adverse event may be any unfavorable or unintended sign, abnormal laboratory finding, symptom or disease. Diagnosing, treating and reporting AEFIs, and differentiating between mild, non-significant reactions and serious events which need prompt attention is a quality issue.

Cause Specific Classification of AEFI



The mechanism of AEFI depends on its cause as shown in the table