CARIBBEAN REGULATORY SYSTEM

CARPHA Launches Regional System for CARICOM States to Report Medicines Related Adverse Events and Substandard/Falsified Products

On December 20, 2017, the Caribbean Public Health Agency/Caribbean Regulatory System (CARPHA/CRS) launched VigiCarib, a voluntary regional system for CARICOM states to report medicines related adverse events (adverse drug reactions (ADRs)) and substandard and falsified products. Medicines safety and monitoring systems are often limited in the individual small states of CARICOM, and the rationale for a regional approach is that with pooling of resources, sharing of information, and coordination of activities, there will be efficiencies of scale that can lead to stronger systems overall.

VigiCarib is endorsed by Ministers of Health in CARICOM states and allows health professionals, the public, and other stakeholders to report to the CRS for regulatory analysis and action. The CRS may share information about problematic products with CARICOM states, pool data to identify signals, and make recommendations to governments about regulatory actions. The program will help to protect patients and bolster their confidence in health care, as well as send a signal to manufacturers and distributors that their products are being monitored for safety and quality.

Stakeholders can report via a word form, pdf form or online form but if pressed for time, can also work with the CRS to flag issues through abbreviated methods, such as taking photos and/or sending short recorded messages via email, that captures essential information, while the CRS works with the stakeholder to complete the necessary information on the case.

Information and reports should be sent to the CRS through the dedicated email: **Vigicarib@carpha.org**

Note that reports received will be copied to the government focal points and the national centers. The CRS will keep reporter identities anonymous at their request. Educational and training activities will be announced on a dedicated web page that will be coming soon.