Question on Notice

No. 1263

Asked on 14 October 2021

MR S ANDREW ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

QUESTION

With reference to the TGA's 'provisional approval' of the COVID vaccines that 'continued approval depends on the evidence of long-term efficacy and safety from ongoing clinical trials and postmarket assessment'—
Will the Minister advise if (a) hospital staff ask people their vaccination status on admission to emergency, (b) blood tests are done on people after they are 'fully vaccinated', in order to check the level of antibodies they have gained (c) autopsies are carried out on people who die within 7 to 14 days of receiving an injection and (d) information is being gathered from individuals about any adverse events or serious adverse events they may have experienced?

ANSWER

With respect to the member's questions, I have been advised as follows.

(a) hospital staff ask people their vaccination status on admission to emergency

Medication history is part of routine assessment of persons presenting to emergency departments and, if relevant, questions regarding a person's vaccination status may be asked.

(b) blood tests are done on people after they are 'fully vaccinated', in order to check the level of antibodies they have gained

The current blood tests which test for spike-protein antibody levels and neutralising antibody levels are not used to check vaccination status in clinical settings, this occurs in research settings.

(c) autopsies are carried out on people who die within 7 to 14 days of receiving an injection

There are a number of factors which determine whether an autopsy is conducted.

If an adverse event following immunisation is considered to have significantly contributed to or hastened a person's death, the death is reportable under the *Coroners Act 2003* as a health care related death. It is then up to the Coroner to determine which investigations are required to determine the cause of death.

(d) information is being gathered from individuals about any adverse events or serious adverse events they may have experienced

Adverse Events Following Immunisation (AEFI) are notifiable conditions under the Public Health Regulation 2018 (Schedule 1) and it is mandatory for all vaccination providers and healthcare providers to report them to Queensland Health. Queensland Health subsequently reports them to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) Medicines Regulation Division as part of the national Pharmacovigilance program.

Members of the public may also report adverse events. They can report directly to the TGA.