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In reply please  
refer to:

Your reference:

Dr Eashwarran Kohilathas  
Doctors for Patients, UK

Dr Elizabeth Evans  
UK Medical Freedom Alliance

Dr Clare Craig  
Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust, UK

28 December 2023

Dear Dr Kohilathas, Dr Evans and Dr Craig,

### **ICD Recognition of COVID-19 vaccine-induced side effects and related disorder**

Thank you for your letter of 17 June 2023. Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, WHO has operated a number of expert forums in which the role of vaccines as part of the emergency response has been regularly reviewed, including the topic of vaccine safety.

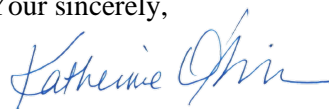
On 22-23 January 2020, WHO's Director-General convened the [IHR Emergency Committee](#) for Covid-19 to advise whether the outbreak of a new coronavirus in China constituted a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). As required under IHR, the Emergency Committee reconvened every three months, and has reviewed the development, efficacy, safety, distribution, impact and coverage of vaccines.

Throughout the emergency, the WHO [SAGE Working Group on Covid-19 Vaccines committee](#) has met to provide policy recommendations. This body has regularly reviewed the evolving epidemiologic situation and evidence on vaccines, including on vaccine effectiveness and vaccine safety.

In addition, the [Technical Advisory Group on Covid-19 Vaccine Composition \(TAG-CO-VAC\)](#), has met frequently to conduct evidence-based assessments and determine if changes to vaccine composition is needed. Since the declaration of the ending of the PHEIC on 5 May 2023, WHO continues to monitor the evidence and literature regarding all aspects of vaccines and factors this in any updates to the SAGE guidance and roadmap for Covid-19, for example.

With regard to your specific proposal, we would ask you to indicate the issues you raise, as well as any suggested solutions, via the ICD-11 proposal mechanism. This process would then trigger subsequent stakeholder consultation. The mechanism may be accessed via the following link: <https://icd.who.int>. Under "Be Involved" please click through via "maintenance platform". After self-registration, you will be able to suggest an amendment to the category or entity of your choice. There are similar categories for relating to other vaccines already within the ICD.

Your sincerely,



Dr Katherine O'Brien  
Director  
Department of Immunization, Vaccines and  
Biologicals