



## Mission

The Brighton Collaboration is an international voluntary collaboration to facilitate the development, evaluation, and dissemination of high quality information about the safety of human vaccines.

## Purpose

The primary aim of The Brighton Collaboration (named in honor of the city where the collaboration was formed) is to enhance research and surveillance of immunization safety by developing globally accepted and implemented standardized case definitions of Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFIs).

## Goals

- To develop a single collaborative case definition per AEFI of interest for all immunization safety purposes and applicable in all countries in which vaccines are used
- To create a total of 50 –100 standardized and precise definitions of local and systemic AEFIs
- To disseminate definitions to all countries
- To encourage global use of collaborative definitions in both pre- and post-licensure trials and in post-marketing surveillance

## Rationale

Immunization safety has become an increasingly prominent issue as national immunization programs worldwide “mature.” However, without international consensus and implementation of standardized case definitions, immunization safety can only be inferred indirectly by the relative absence of AEFIs.

The known differences in terminology used in immunization safety research and surveillance, as well as the different meanings attributed to the same terms, can lead to misinterpretation of data shared between institutions and reporting systems. Furthermore, progress in the science of immunization safety is hindered by the lack of comparability of data. The availability of globally accepted and implemented standardized case definitions of AEFIs will render important data comparable. This is a fundamental requirement for an acceptable international assessment of immunization safety.

## Structure and Process

- The Brighton Collaboration **Steering Committee** has developed guidelines and procedures to organize working groups for development of case definitions for AEFI.
- The **Working Groups** will initially seek evidence of current practice and propose collaborative definitions and a change to current practice as needed.
- **Reference Groups** will then review draft collaborative definitions and propose adjustments if necessary to guarantee wide consensus.
- Practicability is to be evaluated through application of our collaborative definitions in existing surveillance systems and vaccine trials. Definitions are to be finalized for implementation after incorporation of all information gathered.

Immunization safety researchers from scientific, public health and regulatory organizations as well as vaccine manufacturers are involved at any stage of the Process. The work of the Collaboration is based on a large number of worldwide volunteers as well as funding from sponsors.

For more information about The Brighton Collaboration  
and ways to participate write to [Brighton@cdc.gov](mailto:Brighton@cdc.gov)