

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE LEBANESE GOOD PHARMACOVIGILANCE PRACTICES GUIDELINE



JUNE, 30, 2025



11:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.



Ministry of Public Health

Official Launch of the Lebanese Good Pharmacovigilance Practices (LGVP) Guideline

Introduction

On **June 30, 2025**, the Lebanese National Pharmacovigilance Program (LNPVP), under the patronage and the presence of the **Minister of Public Health (MoPH)**, marked a key milestone with the official launch of the **Lebanese Good Pharmacovigilance Practices (LGVP) Guideline**.

The event, held at the MoPH premises, brought together stakeholders including: presidents of professional orders and syndicates, representatives of Marketing Authorization Holders, Pharma Group, local manufacturers and distributors, deans of professional schools, and MoPH leaders, staff and consultants; reflecting a shared commitment to advancing medication safety and strengthening Lebanon's regulatory framework.



The ceremony was opened by **Dr. Abeer Zeitoun**, the Clinical and Technical Manager of the LNPVP, who delivered the welcome address.

She emphasized the significance of the LGVP guideline as a product of years of technical dedication, institutional collaboration, and shared vision, calling it a testament to Lebanon's capacity to build a pharmacovigilance system that protects patients by design and not by chance.



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Ministerial Address: A National Commitment to Patient Safety

In his keynote address, Minister of Public Health **Dr. Nasser Al-Din** emphasized that the launch of the Lebanese Good Pharmacovigilance Practices (LGVP) Guideline, marks a collective commitment to protecting public health.

He highlighted the Ministry's dual responsibility: ensuring the availability of medicines and guaranteeing their quality, particularly in light of recent concerns about counterfeit and substandard drugs.



The Minister reaffirmed that his mandate prioritizes two key pillars: hospitalization and medication, which require national collaboration beyond the Ministry alone. He credited partnerships with universities, professional bodies, the WHO, and the World Bank for the successful development of the LGVP.

Dr. Nasser Al-Din reiterated the Ministry's dedication to protecting citizens from drug-related harm through transparent and accountable pharmacovigilance. He also shared updates on the National Drug Agency and Central Laboratory projects, both progressing through necessary legal and preparatory stages.

Finally, he announced an upcoming national awareness campaign to educate the public on the importance of drug quality and the dangers of unauthorized medications, reaffirming that all initiatives aim to ensure access to safe, effective, and high-quality medicines for all Lebanese citizens.



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Key Highlights

Dr. Rita Karam, Director of the National Pharmacovigilance Program, delivered a comprehensive overview of the LGVP's significance.

She presented the guideline as both a regulatory and strategic tool aimed at embedding pharmacovigilance within national policy and clinical practice.

Dr. Karam reviewed the LNPVP's achievements since its official launch in 2021, including the processing of more than 27,000 adverse event reports, the establishment of hospital focal points, the publication of safety bulletins, and ongoing stakeholder training.

She shared the program's roadmap for the coming three years, which includes policy advancement, stakeholder engagement, and the integration of pharmacovigilance into the structure of the future Lebanese Drug Authority (LDA).

Dr. Karam recognized the essential support of partners, including the World Health Organization, World Bank, Lebanese University, Pharma Group, Lebanese Pharmacovigilance Task Force, LPIA, SPIL, and the Order of Pharmacists.

Special acknowledgment was given to the core LNPVP team: **Dr. Abeer Zeitoun and Dr. Aya Ibrahim** for their exceptional dedication in sustaining and growing the program amid challenging circumstances.



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Dr. Bassam Badran, President of the Lebanese University, praised the academic sector's role in embedding pharmacovigilance in medical education.

He emphasized the importance of preparing future healthcare professionals to actively participate in patient safety efforts and recognized the contributions of Dr. Karam and Dr. Zeitoun in leading this national effort.



Dr. Abdinassir Abubakkar, The World Health Organization Representative in Lebanon, praised the Lebanese National Pharmacovigilance Program (LNPVP) for its outstanding performance in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting its leadership among countries in establishing a strong pharmacovigilance system and regularly issuing safety reports on adverse events following COVID-19 vaccination, as well as during the Cholera outbreak.

He highlighted the program's rapid development. Finally, **Dr. Abubakkar** congratulated the Ministry of Public Health and the PV team for their professionalism and dedication.

Mrs. Farah Asfahani, the World Bank representative, expressed in her speech the outstanding performance of the LNPVP's team and their ability to operate during the COVID -19 pandemic despite infrastructure and financial challenges. She also praised the launch of the LGVP Guideline as a major regulatory advancement, noting that national guidelines are essential for enforcing standards, ensuring accountability, and protecting public health investments. She reassured on the World Bank's ongoing support for health system strengthening and policy modernization in Lebanon.



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Moving Forward

With the LGVP guideline as a foundation, Lebanon is set to institutionalize pharmacovigilance practices, ensure transparent and accountable reporting systems, and embed patient safety at the heart of its healthcare system. This launch marks not just the release of a guideline, but the beginning of a collective national commitment to protect every patient, every day.

Let the LGVP stand as a symbol of what Lebanon can achieve when expertise, collaboration, and purpose come together.

The ceremony concluded with a cake-cutting and cocktail reception, symbolizing the collective success of all those involved in the development and launch of the LGVP.

