



Exploring Pharmacovigilance Theory and Practice

Saint Joseph University

School of Pharmacy - Educational Session



Venue

Saint Joseph University,
Beirut Campus



Date

January, 26th, 2026



Time

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Lecture Topics

A - Pharmacovigilance in Theory

1. Pharmacovigilance in Lebanon
2. General Overview of Pharmacovigilance
3. Reporting Adverse Drug Reactions

B - Pharmacovigilance in Practice

1. Handling Adverse Drug/Vaccine Reactions
2. Decoding Pharmacovigilance: Practical Application



As part of the Lebanese National Pharmacovigilance Program (LNPVP) educational activities, the Pharmacovigilance (PV) team provided an educational training session to the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th-year Bachelor's degree pharmacy students at Saint Joseph University (USJ).

The training session took place on January 26th, 2026, at the USJ Beirut Campus, with a total attendance of 200 students. Titled "Exploring Pharmacovigilance: Theory and Practice", the two-hour session introduced the pharmacy students to the PV landscape in Lebanon, offering insights into its daily activities and operations. The offered presentations provided a global perspective on pharmacovigilance, followed by a comprehensive explanation of the adverse event reporting process. Special attention was given to the handling procedures for Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFIs) and Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs) in Lebanon.

The session was concluded with a hands-on practice of essential PV definitions and terminologies for data entry. This was reinforced by an interactive discussion on real-life cases of AEFIs/ADRs received by the LNPVP.





The session was initiated with a welcome remark by the Director of the Quality Assurance of Pharmaceutical Products Programs and the National Pharmacovigilance Program (LNPVP) Coordinator, Dr. Rita Karam, who introduced the Lebanese PV System with an opening presentation.

She outlined the roadmap to the program's success, sharing with the audience its mission, vision, and values.

The implementation of the program from its activation in 2018 to its incorporation in the WHO Program for International Drug Monitoring (WHO-PIDM) in 2021 and its current status was detailed.

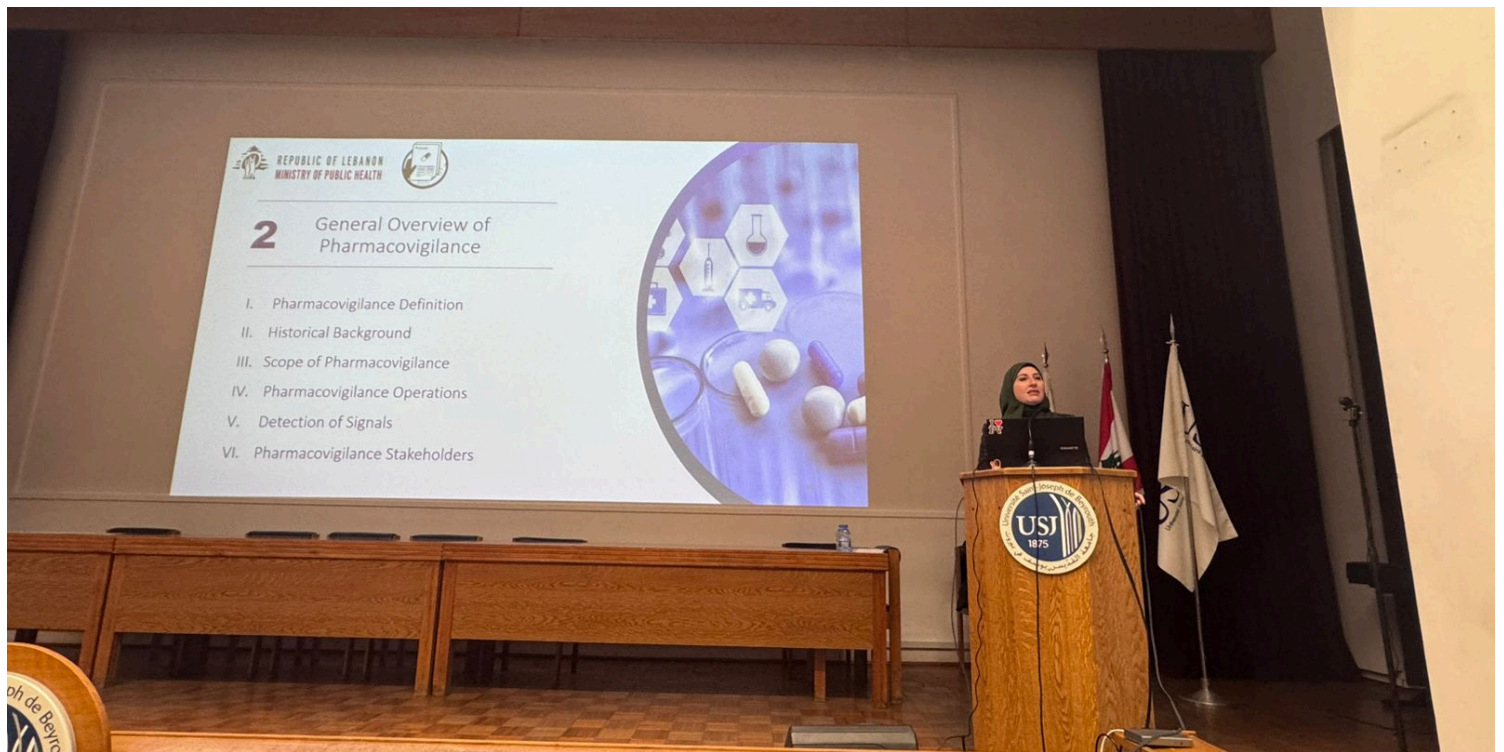
The program's partners, stakeholders, and activities were identified and shared. The presentation provided an overview of the Lebanese Guideline on Good Pharmacovigilance Practices (LGVP) modules, highlighting their structured approach to establishing, implementing, and maintaining an effective pharmacovigilance (PV) system across all stakeholders.





In the second presentation, Dr. Abeer Zeitoun, the senior clinical and technical manager, provided a general overview of Pharmacovigilance, covering its definition, development, and scope. A brief historical background was displayed to emphasize the importance of PV in ensuring patient safety. The presentation further highlighted the significance of signal detection in this critical field.

Dr. Abeer Zeitoun discussed the adverse events that should be reported to the LNPVP. A useful overview of the available reporting means was later presented covering the paper reporting form, the e-reporting link, the direct contact with the Ministry of Public Health, and the Med Safety App. Lastly, she gave an overview of the program's workflow when handling the received cases. The Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs) and the Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFIs) management protocols were explained.





In the third presentation, Dr. Aya Ibrahim, the clinical PV officer, introduced the students to the Med Safety App and the VigiMobile e-Forms. The main objective was to enhance students' experience on how to report adverse events using the reporting tools. She guided the participants on the steps to follow to submit a case report using these tools.

Finally, the practical application of reporting AEFIs/ADRs was handled by Dr. Aya Ibrahim. The objective of this presentation was to equip the students with the skills to develop high-quality case reports. Therefore, in an attempt to bring the participants closer to the LNPVP's everyday tasks, the different sections of the Individual Case Safety Report (ICSR) were covered in a hands-on manner. This was followed by a detailed breakdown of each section. Dr. Ibrahim explained how to correctly report the drug suspected to be related to the observed reaction, supported by practical cases. The Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities (MedDRA) term was then explained along with its hierarchy and how to use it. Several examples elaborating on the importance of using the correct MedDRA were provided.





A wrap-up with hands-on practice cases was performed. To facilitate this interactive part and enhance students' participation, practice cases were shared using polleverywhere, an online poll-sharing tool. It is noteworthy that the students demonstrated a solid understanding of reporting WHODrug and MedDRA terms, with answer scores ranging from 85% to 100% for correct answers.

At the end of the session, all students were highly encouraged to take part in the reporting process by actively using the Med Safety App and VigiMobile e-Forms.

