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Pandemrix® vaccine and cases of narcolepsy

WHO's attention has been drawn to reports of narcolepsy in Sweden and Finland allegedly related to vaccinations with Pandemrix®, an adjuvanted 2009 influenza A (H1N1) vaccine produced by GSK. WHO notes that the European Medicines Agency (EMA) has launched a review to look carefully at all of the available data and determine whether there is sufficient evidence to establish a causal association between the vaccine and narcolepsy. WHO, through it's Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety, is monitoring the situation closely.

Pending the outcome of the ongoing reviews, Pandemrix® remains licensed for use by the EMA and prequalified by WHO. Given that the benefits of 2009 influenza A (H1N1) vaccines are established, WHO recommendations to immunize vulnerable populations remain unchanged.