



Dear colleagues,

We are writing to share important updates regarding the Government of Canada's **Vaccine Impact Assistance Program (VIAP)**, which is being delivered by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). The program was previously delivered by a third-party administrator as the Vaccine Injury Support Program (VISP). We encourage you to share the information in this letter with your membership and professional networks.

Program transition and new administration

As of April 1, 2026, the Government of Canada began administering the program under a new name: the **VIAP**. While the program name has changed, **its purpose remains the same**: to provide financial support to individuals in Canada who are assessed as having been **seriously and permanently injured** as a result of a Health Canada-authorized vaccine administered in Canada (outside of the province of Québec) on or after December 8, 2020.

Financial support is also available to the dependents or beneficiaries of someone who died as a result of vaccination, such as death benefits and funeral expenses.

Individuals whose applications were submitted to the former VISP have been notified of the transition and their files have been transferred to the VIAP. Those individuals should expect to receive an update about the status of their applications by July 1, 2026. All applications and appeals submitted under the previous administration are continuing under the new program. Updated program details and contact information are available on the [Vaccine Impact Assistance Program website](#).

The province of Québec is continuing to administer its pre-existing [program](#) with federal funding for people vaccinated in Québec.

How this transition affects health care professionals

Health care professionals play a crucial role in supporting individuals who may have experienced a serious and permanent vaccine injury. Under VIAP, the role of health care professionals remains largely consistent:

- **Identifying potential cases:** If you believe a patient may have experienced a serious and permanent injury following vaccination, you may encourage them to apply to VIAP. Submission of an Adverse Event Following Immunization (AEFI) report, following your local or provincial public health protocols, is also essential when there is a temporal association with vaccination and no other clear cause.
- **Providing medical information:** If your patient has submitted a claim to VIAP, you may be asked to complete the initial medical assessment form, supply additional clinical details to support a claim, or support your patient in understanding the decision made based on the medical assessment of their claim.



- **Supporting continuity:** Your timely provision of needed medical documentation helps reduce delays in assessing claims.

Since April 1, 2026, information about the VIAP was made available on Canada.ca, including eligibility requirements, guidance on how to apply, updated information on medical assessment forms, and an online application portal.

How to support patients seeking information

You can refer patients to the VIAP if they:

- May have experienced a serious and permanent injury as a result of a Health Canada-authorized vaccine
- Received their vaccination in any province or territory except Québec
- Would like more information on financial supports available under the program
- Are dependents or beneficiaries of someone who died as a result of vaccination

Patients vaccinated in the province of Québec should continue to apply through [the Government of Québec's existing Vaccine Injury Compensation Program](#).

Where to find updated program information

The Government of Canada will provide program details and updates on the transition through the VIAP [website](#), including:

- Eligibility requirements to apply
- Available supports through the program
- Application and appeal processes
- Information for claimants who applied under the VISIP and have been transferred to the VIAP
- Contact information for the program

Sharing this information

Health care professionals are uniquely positioned to provide information on available supports for patients. We encourage you to distribute this letter and future program updates to your provincial/territorial membership, affiliated clinicians, and practice communities to help ensure clinicians are informed of the program's transition and new processes.

If you have questions, you may use the contact information that is posted on the [program website](#).

Thank you for your continued commitment to supporting Canadians' health and well-being.

Sincerely,

The Vaccine Impact Assistance Program

Public Health Agency of Canada