



Office of Hon Tony Ryall

Minister of Health
Minister of State Services

10 NOV 2009

Ms Rhonda Renata
leeann.renata@xtra.co.nz

Ref. no. 09003137

Dear Ms Renata

Thank you for your email of 14 October 2009 about your concerns on the use of Gardasil. I am very sorry to hear of the loss of your daughter Jasmine.

I understand that you are concerned that the Gardasil vaccine is in some way associated with your daughter's death. Officials from the Ministry of Health advise me that this is unlikely as Gardasil has not been found to have caused any deaths in New Zealand or overseas.

In New Zealand there are processes in place to investigate any suspected reactions to medicines, including vaccines. All health professionals should notify the Centre for Adverse Events Monitoring (CARM) whose role it is to investigate all reports of suspected reactions to immunisation. Individuals may also report a suspected reaction to CARM directly. You may want to speak to your doctor about doing this so an investigation can be carried out.

I am advised that in cases of sudden unexplained deaths it would be the normal course of events for the death to be referred to the Coroner to investigate. Therefore you may also want to discuss your concerns with your daughter's doctor and seek more information and clarification on the circumstances surrounding her death.

Again my sympathies go out to you and your family.

Yours sincerely

Hon Tony Ryall
Minister of Health