

Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP)

In response to a case in which a child received oral poliomyelitis vaccination and subsequently developed polio in 1986, the Ministry of Health and Welfare established a Vaccine Injury Compensation Fund in June 1988. The fund enables individuals to claim compensations from their local health bureau in the event of death, disabilities, serious illnesses, or adverse reaction resulting from vaccination. Review of claims by the Vaccine Injury Compensation Working Group ensures the causal relationship between the vaccine and the adverse events to eliminate vaccination worries.

For effective use of vaccine injury compensation resources and to strengthen protection of compensation rights and guarantees, the Regulations Governing Collection and Review of Relief Fund for Victims of Immunization was amended in recent years. Highlights were as follows:

1. The procedure of statement of opinion was amended. The Working Group may, ex officio or by request of the claimant, notify the claimant to state his or her opinions on a given date at a designated place.



VICP claim evaluation committee meeting

Table 3-2 Types of Compensation, Vaccine Injury Compensation Program

Relief Items	Criteria		Amount of Compensation (US\$ 1,000)	
	Definition/Degree of Impairment	Causality Conclusion		
Compensation for Death	-	Vaccine-related	16.1~193.5	
		Indeterminate	9.7~112.9	
Compensation for Impairment	By the types and degrees of impairments regulated by laws for the protection of the rights of the mentally and physically impaired, but excluding conversion disorder associated with psychological factors.	4-extremely severe	Vaccine-related	16.1~193.5
			Indeterminate	9.7~112.9
		3-severe	Vaccine-related	9.7~161.3
			Indeterminate	6.5~96.8
		2-moderate	Vaccine-related	6.5~129.0
			Indeterminate	3.2~80.6
		1-mild	Vaccine-related	3.2~80.6
			Indeterminate	1.6~64.5
Compensation for Severe Illnesses	To be decided by the regulations and the scopes of severe illnesses and injuries defined by the National Health Insurance and the illnesses considered as severe adverse reactions by the Procedure for Reporting Severe Adverse Reactions to Medicines, but not meeting the definition of impairment.	Vaccine-related	0.6~96.8	
		Indeterminate	0.6~38.8	
Compensation for Other Adverse Reactions	Other adverse reactions not meeting the definition of severe illnesses. However, mild, commonly seen or expectable adverse reactions of immunization are excluded	Vaccine-related/ Indeterminate	0~6.5	
Funeral Subsidies	Funeral subsidies are provided if an autopsy is performed to determine whether the death is caused by the vaccine.	-	9.7	
Medical Cost Subsidies	Examination and treatment performed to help clarify the causal relationship between vaccination and symptoms.	-	0~6.5	
Stillbirth or Abortion Suspected to be Caused by Vaccination of the Fetus or Embryo undergone by Autopsy or Testing	Gestation after 20 weeks	-	3.2	
	Gestation less than 20 weeks	-	1.6	

2. We revised the criteria and classification of causality between vaccination and alleged injury (Table 3-2), based on the causality assessment of an adverse event following immunization which was commissioned by the WHO.
3. To implement the essence of no-fault compensation, we established the factors to consider for deciding the amount of compensation.

Following the claim evaluation process(Figure 3-2), in 2018, 120 cases were settled, a total of 1,787 claims had been reviewed since program inception(Figure 3-3), and compensation disbursement had reached US\$ 3.8 million.

Figure 3-2 Flowchart for Vaccine Injury Compensation Claims Evaluation Process

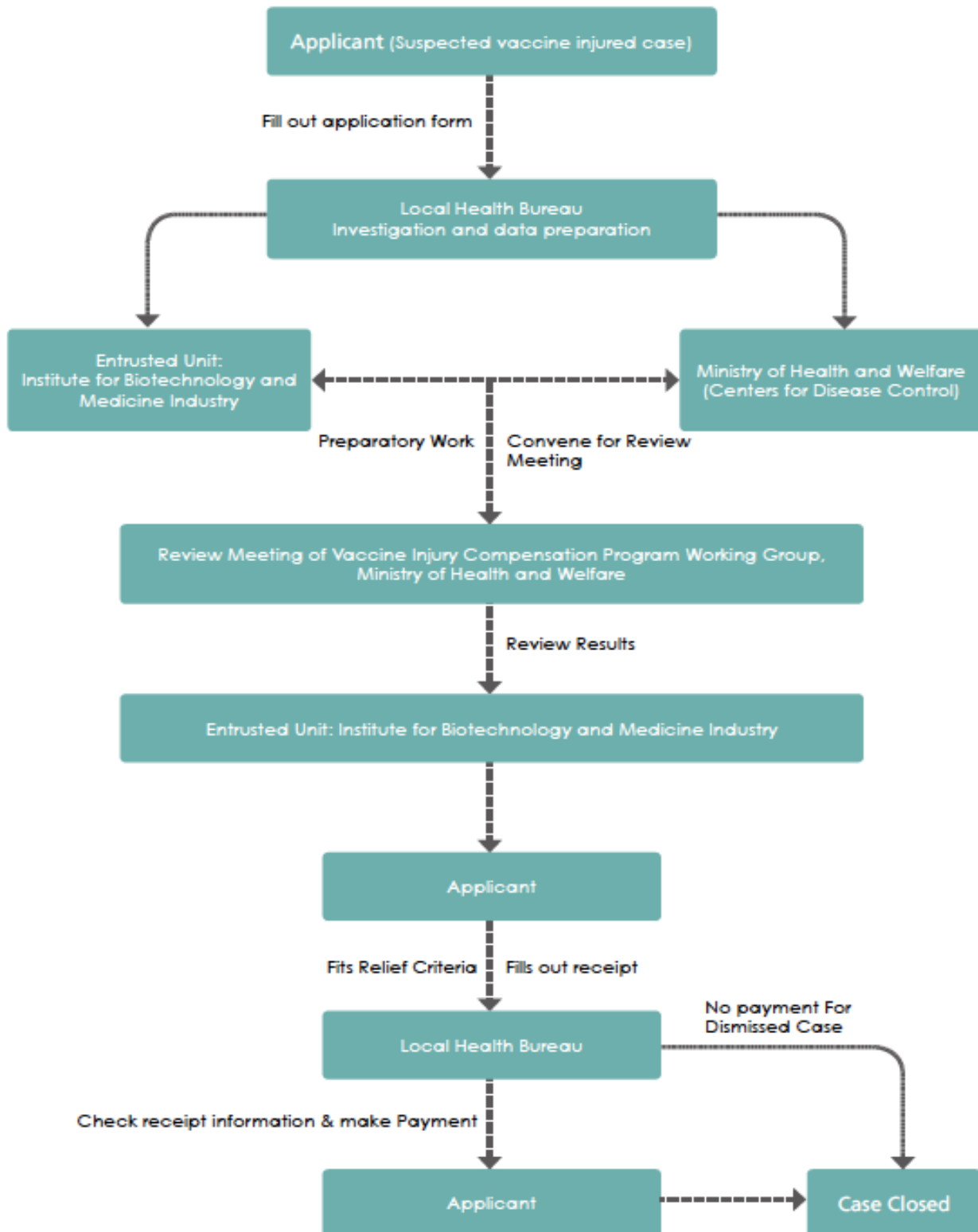


Figure 3-3 Total Number of Cases Settled Per Year from Program Inception in 1989 to 2018

