

## **Nordic Covid-19 vaccine policy, similarities and disparities in handling two incidents of potentially severe safety signals**

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The Nordic countries share similarities in organization of the health care systems, have well organized social security identification number-systems and they are all included in the European medicines regulatory network. Throughout the covid-19 pandemic a Nordic network of public health agencies, regulatory authorities and academia has collaborated to share experiences and produce timely and accurate data, resulting in two publications on potentially severe safety signals, namely the risk for TTS (thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome) (1) and for myocarditis (2). All Nordic countries had access to joint reliable data, and the Public Health Authorities participated in weekly meetings for sharing of data and policies. The collaboration enabled swift changes in covid-19 vaccine recommendations, but despite this, the recommendations differed somewhat between countries (tables 1 and 2). This illustrates that despite joint safety analyses with results applicable to all countries, the practical implications of the findings may lead to different policy decisions, possibly due to varying country specific risk assessment, epidemiological situation and differences in access and delivery policies regarding covid-19 vaccines in the different Nordic countries.

Ref:

1. Pottegård A et al. Arterial events, venous thromboembolism, thrombocytopenia, and bleeding after vaccination with Oxford-AstraZeneca ChAdOx1-S in Denmark and Norway: population-based cohort study. *BMJ*. Published May 5th 2021

2. Karlstad Ø, SARS-CoV-2 Vaccination and Myocarditis in a Nordic Cohort Study of 23 Million Residents, *JAMA Cardiology*, published the 1st June 2022.