

GENERAL NEWS

PARADIGM publication on sustainable PE is out!

IMI-PARADIGM work on sustainability of Patient Engagement (PE) has led to the publication of an article entitled: "*Sustaining Meaningful Patient Engagement Across the Lifecycle of Medicines: A Roadmap for Action*" in the journal Therapeutic Innovation & Regulatory Science (TIRS), the official scientific journal of DIA. This work has been led by EURORDIS, with participation of other consortium partners including EPF, EATG, EMA, HTA bodies, EFPIA, among others.

The roadmap provides a framework for all stakeholders to take collective action within their organisations and across Europe to implement PE in a sustainable manner.

For more information, please read the [article](#)!

IN THIS ISSUE

General News	1
In the Spotlight: Training & Resources	2
Medicines Safety	3
Key figures Orphan medicines	4
Updates on EMA Committees	
CHMP	5
COMP	6
PDCO	7
CAT	8
PCWP	9
Glossary	10

EURORDIS is calling for expression of interest in advanced therapies and regulatory matters

EURORDIS is getting prepared for the next mandate for patient representatives on the European Medicines Agency's Committee for Advanced Therapies (CAT). The CAT is responsible for assessing the quality, safety and efficacy of advanced therapy medicinal products (ATMPs), a medicine for human use that is based on genes, cells or tissue engineering, and following scientific developments in the field.

In the coming months, the European Commission (EC) will launch a selection procedure to appoint the members and alternates representing patient associations and clinicians to the CAT for a 3-year mandate starting from mid-2022.

EURORDIS is calling for expression of interest amongst its Members (EU members only are eligible) to potentially support the application of one or several candidates to the EC Call.

If you are a patient expert with regulatory appetite and understanding of advanced therapies challenges and opportunities, and if you can make yourself available 5-7 days per month, please send your CV and a short email explaining your motivation

to maria.cavaller@eurordis.org by the end of June.

In the spotlight: Training & Resources

EMA Training and resources for patients

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) provides support to patient representatives invited to participate in its activities as well as training sessions plus a collection of training videos and documents for anyone interested in learning more about EMA's activities.

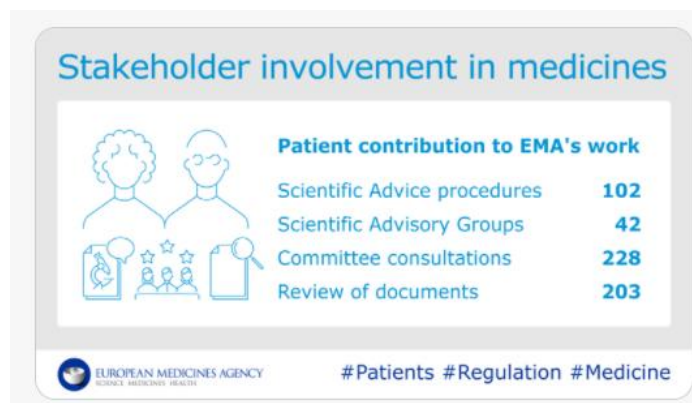
The following table contains information that helps patients to understand the work of EMA, and the types of activities patients are involved. For further information, please see the [dedicated section](#) on training on the EMA website.

Category	EMA basics video	Related documents
General information	The European Medicines Agency The centralised procedure How the EMA interacts with patients and consumers How the EMA works with healthcare professionals The Patients' and Consumers' Working Party	The EMA: slides The centralised procedure: slides How the EMA interacts with patients and consumers: slides How the EMA works with healthcare professionals: slides The Patients' and Consumers' Working Party slides
Preparing patients to contribute at EMA	EMA video for patient representatives Scientific advice: what to expect and how to prepare Declarations of interests: a practical guide How patients are involved in the review of documents	Scientific advice: slides Declaration of interests: slides How patients are involved in the review of documents: slides Involvement of patients in scientific advice Involvement of patients in scientific advisory groups (SAGs)
Medicines Safety	Pharmacovigilance What is a European safety referral	Pharmacovigilance: slides What is a European safety referral: slides

Getting involved as an individual expert

Patient experts contribute their real-life experience of living with their condition directly into scientific regulatory discussions. Primarily, EMA contacts experts via its network of [eligible organisations](#). Individuals willing to be involved in EMA activities can register in the individual experts' stakeholder database, by completing the [online registration form](#). More information on the database can be found in a [question and answer document](#).

Individual expert database



Patient involvement in EMA activities during 2020

Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC) April 2021

Minutes November 2020
Agenda April 2021
Meeting Highlights April 2021

PRAC investigating thromboembolic events with COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen

PRAC has started a review of a *safety signal* to assess reports of thromboembolic events (formation of blood clots, resulting in the obstruction of a vessel) in people who received *COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen*.

Four serious cases of unusual blood clots with low blood platelets have been reported post-vaccination with COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen.

These reports point to a '*safety signal*', but it is currently not clear whether there is a causal association between vaccination with COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen and these conditions. PRAC is investigating these cases and will decide whether regulatory action may be necessary, which usually consists of an update to the *product information*.

For more information, please see [EMA website](#).

Update on COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca

EMA's safety committee (PRAC) has concluded that unusual blood clots with low blood platelets should be listed as very rare side effects of *Vaxzevria (previously COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca)*.

EMA is reminding healthcare professionals and people receiving the vaccine to remain aware of the possibility of blood clots combined with low levels of blood platelets occurring very rarely within 2 weeks of vaccination.

PRAC has started a review of a *safety signal* to assess reports of capillary leak syndrome in people who were vaccinated with *Vaxzevria (previously COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca)*. Five cases of this very rare disorder, characterised by leakage of fluid from blood vessels causing tissue swelling and a drop in blood pressure, were reported in the *EudraVigilance* database. PRAC will evaluate all the available data to decide if a causal relationship is confirmed or not.

For more information, see [EMA's update](#).

Medicines safety resources

- ❖ List of medicines under additional monitoring
- ❖ EudraVigilance
- ❖ Shortages catalogue
- ❖ Recommendations on medication errors
- ❖ Good Pharmacovigilance Practices
- ❖ Patient registries
- ❖ Rules of procedure on the organisation and conduct of public hearings at the PRAC



Click on the image to get the latest issue of *QPP Update*, an EMA newsletter with the latest news on EU Pharmacovigilance

Orphan medicines key figures

Since
2000



2400
Orphan
designations



235
Orphan designations
included in authorised
indication



202
Authorised
OMPs



78
To be used in
children



5 Removed from
the market
67 Marketed, but no
longer "orphans"

To date

130

Products with a marketing
authorisation and an orphan status in
the European Union

18 May 2021

CHMP Meeting Highlights April 2021

Minutes March 2021
Agenda April 2021
Meeting Highlights April 2021

In April, the CHMP recommended **8 medicines for approval, 2 orphan medicines**:




- *Enspryng (satralizumab)* for the treatment of neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorders (NMOSD) in patients from 12 years of age who are anti-aquaporin-4 IgG (AQP4-IgG) seropositive.
- *Koselugo (selumetinib)* for the treatment of paediatric patients with neurofibromatosis type 1 (NF1) plexiform neurofibromas (PN).
- *Evkeeza (evinacumab)* for the treatment of adult and adolescent patients aged 12 years and older with homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia (HoFH).
- *Adtralza (tralokinumab)* for the treatment of adults with moderate to severe atopic dermatitis who are candidates for systemic therapy.
- *Onureg (azacitidine)* for the maintenance treatment of patients with acute myeloid leukemia.

The CHMP recommended granting marketing authorisations for two generic medicines, and one hybrid medicine. The CHMP also recommended 11 extensions of therapeutic indication.

For further details, read the full [CHMP meeting highlights](#).

New pilot project for early contact with patients

The CHMP started a new pilot project to enhance engagement with patients at the start of review of all marketing authorisation applications for **orphan medicines**. This one-year pilot will enable patients to share their views on aspects such as quality of life, treatment options and unmet medical needs with the CHMP so they can be aware of all aspects from the beginning. For further details on this project, read the full [project overview document](#).

CHMP statistics: April 2021	
Positive opinions on new medicines	8 Total 34 Total 2021
New [non-orphan] medicines	3 
Orphan medicines	2 
Biosimilars	0
Generic / hybrids / informed consent	3 



Click on the image to get the latest issue of [Human Medicines Highlights](#), a newsletter published by EMA address to organisations representing patients, consumers and healthcare professionals summarising key information on medicines for human use.

COMP April 2021 meeting update

Minutes March 2021
Agenda April 2021
Meeting Report April 2021

During the April plenary, the COMP adopted **17 positive opinions** on the designation of medicines as orphan medicinal products to the European Commission (EC). For further information, please see the [meeting report](#).

Please find below the list of indications covered in the medicines that were recommended for orphan designation:

- Cystic fibrosis, Raremoon Consulting Esp S.L.;
- Glioma, Parexel International (Irl) Limited;
- Multiple system atrophy, H. Lundbeck A/S;
- Fragile X syndrome, Connecta Therapeutics S.L.;
- Hyperphenylalaninemia, PTC Therapeutics International Limited;
- Leber's congenital amaurosis, Variant;
- Rett syndrome, Novartis Gene Therapies EU Limited;
- X-linked severe combined immunodeficiency, Real Regulatory Limited;
- Dermatomyositis, Adienne S.r.l.;
- Malignant hyperthermia, Norgine B.V.;
- Neuroblastoma, Brancaster Pharma Ireland Limited;
- Barth syndrome, Scendea (NL) B.V.;
- Functional single ventricle congenital heart disease, Janssen-Cilag International N.V.;
- Retinitis pigmentosa, Worphmed S.r.l.;
- Beta thalassemia intermedia and major, Ionis Development (Ireland) Limited;
- Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, FGK Representative Service GmbH;
- Marginal zone lymphoma, BeiGene Ireland Limited.

Re-assessment of orphan designation at time of marketing authorisation

When a designated orphan medicinal product receives a positive opinion for marketing authorisation from EMA's Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP), the COMP has the responsibility to review whether or not the medicinal product still fulfils the designation criteria prior to the granting of a marketing authorisation. The COMP adopted **2 positive opinions at time of CHMP opinion**:

- [Kaftrio \(ivacaftor/tezacaftor/elixacaftor\)](#) – Type II variation*, for the treatment of cystic fibrosis, Vertex Pharmaceuticals (Ireland) Limited
- [Kalydeco \(ivacaftor\)](#) - Type II variation, for the treatment of cystic fibrosis, Vertex Pharmaceuticals (Ireland).

***Type II variation**: A major change to a marketing authorisation that may have a significant impact on the quality, safety or efficacy of a medicine, but does not involve a change to the active substance, its strength or the route of administration. Type II variations require a formal approval.

Summaries of positive opinions on orphan designations are available on the [EMA website](#).

For further information on the work of the COMP for this 2021, please see the [work plan](#).

Orphan medicines in 2021

Medicinal Product	Marketing Authorisation Holder	Therapeutic Indication	Date of Marketing Authorisation
Elzonris [®] (tagraxofusp)	Stemline Therapeutics B.V.	Adults with blastic plasmacytoid dendritic cell neoplasm (BPDCN)	07/01/2021
Inrebic [®] (fedratinib)	Celgene Europe BV	Adults with myelofibrosis (a rare form of blood cancer)	08/02/2021
Lumoxiti [®] (moxetumomab pasudotox)	AstraZeneca AB	Adults with hairy cell leukaemia, a cancer of the white blood cells	08/02/2021
Evryssi [®] (risdiplam)	Roche Registration GmbH	5q spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) in patients 2 months of age and older, with a clinical diagnosis of SMA Type 1, Type 2 or Type 3 or with one to four SMN2 copies	26/03/2021
Pemazyre [®] (pemigatinib)	Incyte Biosciences Distribution B.V.	Adults with cholangiocarcinoma	26/03/2021
Sogroya [®] (somapacitan)	Novo Nordisk A/S	Growth hormone deficiency	31/03/2021

Please click also on the following links to see:

[Orphan medicinal products authorised during 2021](#)

[Orphan medicinal products authorised since 2000](#)

PDCO April meeting to be updated next issue

Minutes March 2021
Agenda March 2021
Meeting Report March 2021

PDCO March 2021 meeting update

In March, the PDCO adopted **4 positive opinions** agreeing *paediatric investigation plans (PIPs)* for the medicines below. The PIP aims to generate the necessary quality, safety and efficacy data through studies to support the authorisation of the medicine for use in children of all ages.

- RAAV8 viral vector encoding the human UGT1A1 transgene (rAAV8-hUGT1A1), from GENETHON, for the treatment of Crigler-Najjar syndrome;
- Vedolizumab, from Takeda Pharma A/S, for the treatment of pouchitis;
- Pegfilgrastim, from Accord Healthcare S.L.U., for the prevention of chemotherapy-induced febrile neutropenia and treatment of chemotherapy-induced neutropenia;
- Respiratory syncytial virus stabilised prefusion f subunit vaccine (RSVpreF), from Pfizer Europe MA EEIG, for the prevention of lower respiratory tract disease caused by respiratory syncytial virus via maternal immunization.

The PDCO also adopted opinions on **product-specific waivers, modifications to an agreed PIP and compliance check** that can be consulted in the [meeting report](#).

For further information on the work of the PDCO for this 2021, please see the [work plan](#).

For a comprehensive list of opinions and decisions on PIPs, please check the [EMA website](#).

CAT April 2021 meeting update

In April the Committee for Advanced Therapies (CAT) finalised **5 scientific recommendations on the classification of advanced therapy medicinal products (ATMPs)** depicted below.

The outcome of these assessments can be found here: [Summaries of scientific recommendations on classification of ATMPs](#).

The following products were classified as **somatic cell therapy medicinal products**:

- Autologous antigen-specific cytotoxic T-lymphocytes, intended for the treatment of cancer patients that are overexpressing the specific antigen;
- Autologous dendritic cells activated against tumour peptides, intended for the treatment of cancer patients;
- Autologous M1-polarized macrophages, intended for the treatment of cancer patients;
- Autologous Cytotoxic Natural Killer cells, intended for the treatment of cancer patients;
- Autologous plasma cells producing monoclonal antibodies against specific tumour antigen, intended for the treatment of cancer patients.

CAT heard a detailed feedback of the teleconferences that took place between CAT members and colleagues from the European Commission, DG Santé on the revision of the EU legislation on blood, tissues and cells (BTC). Following this feedback CAT discussed the potential impact of this revision on ATMPs, borderline products and CAT participation to the workshops that will be organised by the European Commission in the frame of the BTC revision.

For further information on the work of the CAT for this 2021, please see the [work plan](#).

For more information, see also the [EMA meeting report](#).

CAT March 2021 meeting update

In March the Committee for Advanced Therapies (CAT) finalised **15 scientific recommendations on the classification of advanced therapy medicinal products (ATMPs)** depicted below.

The following products was classified as **somatic cell therapy medicinal products**:

- Autologous dendritic cells activated against SARS-COV-2 peptides, intended for the prevention of SARS-COV-2 infection.

The following products were classified as **gene therapy medicinal products**:

- Two messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) active substances, encoding separately for Human Papilloma Virus type (HPV) 16 E6 and HPV16 E7 protein, intended for the treatment of recurrent/metastatic HPV16-positive carcinoma;
- DNA plasmid encoding human transferring gene, intended for the treatment of retinitis pigmentosa;
- Human umbilical cord MSC derived exosomes carrying recombinant hTERT mRNA and protein, hsa-miR-125b-5p, hsa-miR-125b-1-3p, AntimiR-21-5p, intended for the treatment of Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome and Chronic Obstructive Respiratory Disease;
- Bacteriophage cocktail consisting of four CRISPR-armed phages, intended for the treatment of prophylaxis of bloodstream E. coli infection in neutropenic patients with haematological malignancy.

Three other products were classified as **advanced therapy medicinal products**.

For more information, see also the [agenda](#), and the [EMA meeting report](#).

PATIENTS' AND CONSUMERS' WORKING PARTY

The Patients' and Consumers' Working Party (PCWP), established in 2006, serves as a platform for exchange of information and discussion of issues of common interest between EMA and patients and consumers. It provides recommendations to EMA and its human scientific committees on all matters of interest in relation to medicines.

For more information, see also the [PCWP mandate, objectives and rules of procedure](#).



PCWP and HCPWP March meeting

Last 2nd and 3rd March took place a [2 days virtual meeting](#) which brought together all eligible patient and consumer and healthcare professionals organisations and members of the Patients' and Consumers' Working Party (PCWP) and Healthcare Professionals' Working Party (HCPWP). The meeting was introduced by EMA's new Executive Director, Emer Cooke.

The meeting focused on the following:

- Update on COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics
- European Reference Network model in the European Data Space
- Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products (ATMPs)
- Personalised medicine approaches for the next generation of medicines
- Big Data
- ICH Guidances on Good Clinical Practice (E6/E8)
- Overview of the 2020 Satisfaction Survey results on interactions with EMA

For more information, please see the [agenda](#).

EMA Glossaries

The EMA just published a [medical terms simplifier](#) that gives plain-language descriptions of medical terms commonly used in information about medicines.

A [glossary of regulatory terms](#) that gives definitions for the main terms used on the EMA website and in their documents has also been published.

For more information, please check the [glossaries here](#).

Accelerated assessment

Rapid assessment of medicines in the centralised procedure aimed at facilitating patient access to new medicines that address an unmet medical need. Accelerated assessment usually takes 150 evaluation days, rather than 210.

Advanced therapies or advanced-therapy medicinal products (ATMPs)

ATMPs are new medical products based on genes, cells and tissues, which offer new treatment opportunities for many diseases and injuries. There are four main groups:

Gene-therapy medicines

They are medicines that contain genes leading to a therapeutic effect. They work by inserting 'recombinant' genes into cells, usually to treat a variety of diseases, including genetic disorders, cancer or long-term diseases. A recombinant gene is a stretch of DNA that is created in the laboratory, bringing together DNA from different sources.

Somatic-cell therapy medicines

These contain cells or tissues that have been manipulated to change their biological characteristics. They can be used to cure, diagnose or prevent diseases;

Tissue-engineered medicines

These contain cells or tissues that have been modified so they can be used to repair, regenerate or replace tissue.

Combined advanced-therapy medicines

These are medicines that contain one or more medical devices as an integral part of the medicine. An example of this is cells embedded in a biodegradable matrix or scaffold.

Authorisation under exceptional circumstances

It allows patients access to medicines that cannot be approved under a standard authorisation as comprehensive data cannot be obtained, either because there are only very few patients with the disease, the collection of complete information on the efficacy and safety of the medicine would be unethical, or there are gaps in the scientific knowledge. These medicines are subject to specific post-authorisation obligations and monitoring.

Compliance check

It is performed to verify that all the measures agreed in a *Paediatric Investigation Plan* (PIP) and reflected in the Agency's decision have been conducted in accordance with the decision, including the agreed timelines. Full compliance with all studies/measures contained in the PIP is one of several prerequisites for obtaining the rewards and incentives provided for in Articles 36 to 38 of the Paediatric Regulation.

Conditional marketing authorisation

It is granted to a medicine that addresses unmet medical needs of patients on the basis of less comprehensive data than normally required. The available data must indicate that the medicine's benefits outweigh its risks and the applicant should be in a position to provide the comprehensive clinical data in the future.

Designation, orphan medicinal product

A status assigned to a medicine intended for use against a rare condition. The medicine must fulfil certain criteria for designation as an orphan medicine so that it can benefit from incentives such as protection from competition once on the market.

European Public Assessment Report (EPAR)

It is a lay-language document, which provides a summary of the grounds on which the EMA/CHMP based its recommendation for the medicine to receive a marketing authorisation. This happens when a manufacturer develops a generic medicine based on a reference medicine, but with a different strength or given by a different route.

Hybrid application for marketing authorisation

Hybrid applications rely partly on the results of tests on the reference medicine and partly on new data from clinical trials.

Informed consent application for marketing authorisation

An informed consent application makes use of data from the dossier of a previously authorised medicine, with the marketing authorisation holder of that medicine giving consent for the use of their data in the application.

Orphan Legislation

Regulation (EC) No 141/2000 on orphan medicinal products



Paediatric Investigation Plan (PIP)

It sets out a programme for the development of a medicine in the paediatric population. It aims to generate the necessary quality, safety and efficacy data through studies to support the authorisation of the medicine for use in children of all ages. These data have to be submitted to the EMA, or national competent authorities, as part of an application for a marketing authorisation for a new medicine, or for one covered by a patent.

Paediatric Use Marketing Authorisation (PUMA)

It is a dedicated marketing authorisation for medicinal products indicated exclusively for use in the paediatric population, or subsets thereof, with, if necessary, an age-appropriate formulation. It has been designed to promote paediatric development of already authorised products which are no longer covered by a patent. Benefits are 8 years of data protection and 10 years market protection

Patient-reported outcomes (PROs)

Measurements based on data provided directly by patients regarding their health condition without interpretation of the patient's response by a clinician or anyone else.

Patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs)

They are instruments, scales, or single-item measures that have been developed to measure PROs, for example a self-completed questionnaire to assess pain.

Periodic Safety Update Reports (PSURs)

Periodic reports that evaluate the benefit-risk balance of a medicine as evidence is gathered in clinical use. They are submitted by marketing authorisation holders at defined time points after the authorisation.

Post-authorisation efficacy studies (PAES)

PAES are studies relating to authorised medicinal products conducted within the therapeutic indication with the aim of addressing well-reasoned scientific uncertainties on aspects of the evidence of benefits of a medicine that could not be resolved before authorisation or were identified afterwards.

Post-authorisation safety studies (PASS)

A PASS is carried out after a medicine has been authorised to obtain further information on its safety, or to measure the effectiveness of risk-management measures. The PRAC is responsible for assessing the protocols of imposed PASSs and for assessing their results.

Prevalence

In the context of the Orphan Legislation, the prevalence refers to the number of persons with the condition at the time the application is made, divided by the population of the European Union (EU) at that time. It requires demonstration through authoritative references that the disease or condition for which the medicinal product is intended affects not more than 5 in 10,000 persons in the EU, when the application is made.

Public summaries of PDCO evaluations of PIPs

They describe the applicant's proposal for the development of their medicine in children, the PDCO's conclusion on the potential use of the medicine in the paediatric population, the plan agreed between the committee and the applicant at the completion of the procedure (including any partial waivers or deferrals) and the next steps.

Referral procedures for safety reasons

A referral is a procedure used to resolve issues such as concerns over the safety or benefit-risk balance of a medicine or a class of medicines. In a referral, the EMA is requested to conduct a scientific assessment of a particular medicine or a class of medicines on behalf of the European Commission or a Member State.

Risk Management Plans (RMPs)

RMPs are regulatory documents submitted by medicine developers when they apply for marketing authorisation and include information on the medicine's safety profile; how its risks will be prevented or minimised in patients; plans for studies and other activities to gain more knowledge about the safety and efficacy of the medicine; risk factors for developing adverse reactions; measuring the effectiveness of risk-minimisation measures.

Scientific advice/protocol assistance

Through scientific advice, companies can ask the EMA for advice on whether they are conducting the appropriate tests and studies during the clinical development of a given product. In the case of orphan medicines for the treatment of rare diseases, it also includes advice on 1) the demonstration of significant benefit for the designated orphan indication and on 2) similarity or clinical superiority over other medicines; which are criteria for the authorisation of an orphan medicine.



Significant benefit

Demonstrating a significant benefit, this is demonstrating a "clinically relevant advantage or a major contribution to patients" is one of the criteria that medicines for the treatment of rare diseases must fulfil to benefit from 10 years of market exclusivity once they have been authorised. For further information, read the [workshop report: Demonstrating significant benefit of orphan medicines](#), held at the EMA in December 2015.

Safety signal

A safety signal is information on a new or incompletely documented adverse event that is potentially caused by a medicine and that warrants further investigation. Signals are generated from several sources such as spontaneous reports, clinical studies and the scientific literature, but their presence does not mean that a medicine has caused the reported adverse event. The adverse event could be a symptom of another illness or caused by another medicine taken by the patient. The evaluation of a safety signal is required to establish whether or not there is a causal relationship between the medicine and the adverse event.

Similar active substance

It means an identical active substance, or an active substance with the same principal molecular structural features (but not necessarily all of them) and which acts via the same mechanism.

Scientific Advisory Group (SAG)

SAGs have been established to provide an independent recommendation on scientific/technical matters related to products under evaluation through centralised regulatory procedures and referrals by the CHMP or any other scientific issue relevant to the work of the Committee.

Waiver

A waiver can be issued if there is evidence that the medicine concerned is likely to be ineffective or unsafe in the paediatric population, or that the disease or condition targeted occurs only in adult populations, or that the medicine, or the performance of trials, does not represent a significant therapeutic benefit over existing treatments for paediatric patients.

