

EURORDISTHERAPEUTIC REPORT

October 2022

ISSUE 9

UPDATE ON THERAPEUTIC DEVELOPMENT AND PATIENT INVOLVEMENT IN EMA ACTIVITIES

GENERAL NEWS

Pipeline Medicines Innovation Review

Recently the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industry Associations (EFPIA) has published their *Pipeline Innovation*Review 2021 performed by IQVIA. This review includes:

- **-update** of the 2020 selected innovation areas and newly identified ones;
- **-overview** of the different developments on several therapeutic areas and the clinical trial activity;
- **-pipeline** review of the current treatments and therapies being developed;
- -potential impact of different therapies.

For more information, please read it here!

IN THIS ISSUE

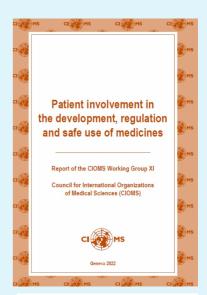
General News	1
In the Spotlight: conect4children	2
Medicines Safety	3
Key figures Orphan medicines	4
Updates on EMA Committees	
СНМР	5
COMP	6
PDCO	7
CAT	8
PCWP	9
Glossary	10

CIOMS report on Patient Involvement is out!

The Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS) with its worldwide influence, has just published a report on 'Patient involvement in the development, regulation and safe use of medicines' to help advance public health through guidance in health research and policy.

This report describes the importance of systematically involving patients throughout a medicine's life, from its early development through the regulatory process to ongoing monitoring and safe use in everyday healthcare. It provides a comprehensive overview of the current knowledge about the benefits of patient involvement and existing initiatives, gives many examples and recommendations, and addresses the remaining challenges and practice gaps.

The authors of the report are participants from patient organizations, industry, regulators, academia and the World Medical Association. Patient engagement is an absolute must for ensuring successful, sustainable development, regulation and safe use of medicine.



For more information, please read it here!



In the spotlight: conect4children

IMI-conect4children (c4c)

EURORDIS is a member of the project consortium *c4c* (*conect4children*), a European network that aims to facilitate the development of new drugs and other therapies for the entire paediatric population.

The *c4c project* was launched in 2018 and after almost four years, many initiatives have been carried out, such as the development of specific training courses for clinical experts and patients and the promotion of specific paediatric clinical trials. In all its activities c4c places patients at the centre, ensuring children and young people participate in all aspects of clinical trials.





Upcoming c4c multi-stakeholder meeting – diabetes type 1

One of the main initiatives have been the organisation of Multi-Stakeholder Meetings (MSM). These meetings have been conceived with the aim to facilitate dialogue and provide an opportunity for constructive interactions between relevant stakeholders (patients/patient representatives, clinicians, academics, pharmaceutical companies and regulators) on topics requiring open discussion on development of medicines in the best interests of children and adolescents. The goal of these meetings is to share information in a pre-competitive setting, to define unmet medical needs, to define how best to address those needs and facilitate the development of innovative medicines towards eventually their introduction into the standard-of-care of children and adolescents.

In 2021, C4c held its first International *Multi-Stakeholder Meeting (MSM)* on paediatric *Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)*, and the outcome of this meeting has been published in the *Journal of Crohn's and Colitis*, with the following title: *Paediatric inflammatory bowel disease: a multi-stakeholder perspective to improve development of drugs for children and adolescents*, read it *here*! The second one took place online on *paediatric Atopic Dermatitis*. Over 100 individuals participated, including young patients and patients advocates, clinicians, academics, pharmaceutical companies and regulators from the FDA, EMA and PDCO.

The third c4c International Multi-Stakeholder Meeting (MSM) will address medical devices in paediatric type I diabetes and will take place on 21 February 2023 in Berlin, with the possibility also to join remotely. The overarching objective of the meeting is to propose a strategy to improve the timely development and access of medical devices for children with type I diabetes, properly addressing paediatric unmet needs, introducing innovative development pathways in the regulatory environment and increasing accessibility for all patients. If you are interested in joining, please feel free to register here, and share it within your network!

c4c resources for patients

The voices of children, young people and their families are a pivotal part of the innovative approach of c4c project. To guarantee patients' involvement in the project, c4c has setup a database to gather information on patients, caregivers, patient organisations and/or young person's advisory boards of rare/paediatric diseases.

If you want to be involved in different activities within the project, **join the c4c pool of expert patients or spread the word among your members!**

Please check all the already available educational resources for patients! For more information, please see c4c website.

MEDICINES SAFETY

Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC) October 2022

Minutes March 2022 Agenda October 2022 Meeting Highlights Oct 2022

Withdraw marketing authorisations for amfepramone medicines

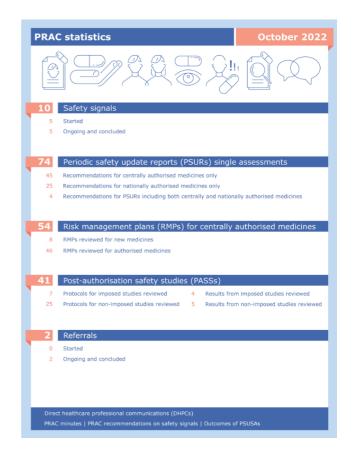
EMA's safety committee (PRAC) has confirmed its recommendation to withdraw the marketing authorisations for **amfepramone obesity medicines**.

The recommendation follows a review which found that measures to restrict the use of these medicines for safety reasons have not been sufficiently effective. It found that the medicines were being used for longer than the recommended maximum period of 3 months, thereby potentially increasing the risk of serious side effects, such as pulmonary arterial hypertension (high blood pressure in the lungs) and dependency.

The medicines were also being used in patients with a history of heart disease or psychiatric disorders, increasing their risk of heart and psychiatric problems. In addition, there was evidence of use during pregnancy, which could pose risks to the unborn baby. The PRAC therefore concluded that the benefits of amfepramone medicines do not outweigh their risks and recommended that the medicines be removed from the market in the EU.

More information is available in *EMA's public health* communication.

For more information, please see EMA website.



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



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



2661Orphan designations



265
Orphan designations included in authorised indication





232
Authorised
OMPs



93
To be used in children

To date

148

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

21 Nov 2022

COMMITTE FOR MEDICINAL PRODUCTS FOR HUMAN USE

CHMP Meeting Highlights October 2022

Minutes October 2022 Agenda October 2022 Meeting Highlights Oct 2022

In October, the CHMP recommended 10 medicines for approval, 2 orphan medicines:

- Marketing authorisation *under exceptional circumstances* for **Ebvallo** (tabelecleucel) for the treatment of Epstein-Barr virus positive post-transplant lymphoproliferative disease.
- Marketing authorisation *under exceptional circumstances* for **Livmarli** (maralixibat chloride) intended for the treatment of cholestatic pruritus (itching) in adult and paediatric patients from two months of age with Alagille syndrome, an inherited condition in which bile builds up in the liver.
- **Odenga** or **Dengue Tetravalent Vaccine** (Live, Attenuated) **Takeda** for the prevention of dengue virus serotypes 1, 2, 3 and 4 in people from four years of age.
- **Eladynos** (abaloparatide) received a positive opinion for the treatment of osteoporosis in postmenopausal women at increased risk of fractures.
- Locametz (gozetotide), which is intended for the diagnosis of prostate cancer.
- **Pluvicto** (lutetium (¹⁷⁷Lu) vipivotide tetraxetan) for the treatment of prostate cancer.
- **Spevigo** (spesolimab) received a positive opinion for a *conditional marketing authorisation* for the treatment of flares in adult patients with generalised pustular psoriasis, a skin disorder that consists of pus spots surrounded by areas of red skin.

The CHMP also recommended **4 extensions of therapeutic indication**, and recommended granting marketing authorisations for **3 generics**. For further details, read the full *CHMP meeting highlights*.

Positive opinions on new medicines	10 Total 80 Total 2022
New [non-orphan] medicines	5
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.

COMMITTEE FOR ORPHAN MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

COMP September & October to be updated when info available

COMP July 2022 meeting update

Minutes May 2022 Agenda July 2022 Meeting July 2022

During the July plenary, the COMP adopted **21 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:

- Hutchinson-Gilford progeria syndrome, Global Medical Services Sp. z o.o.;
- Urea cycle disorders, Unicyte S.r.l.;
- Graft-versus-host-disease, MDC RegAffairs GmbH;
- Cryptococcosis, Insight Drug Regulatory;
- Mucopolysaccharidosis type IV A, (Morquio A syndrome), Fondazione Telethon;
- Frontotemporal dementia, Neuroplast B.V.;
- Myasthenia gravis, Pharma Gateway AB;
- Primary sclerosing cholangitis, Amsterdam UMC;
- Prevention of acute liver failure, Egetis Therapeutics AB;
- Nontuberculous mycobacterial lung disease, Regintel Limited;
- Nnontuberculous mycobacterial lung disease, Dlrc Pharma Services Limited;
- Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Clene Netherlands B.V.;
- Haemophilia A, S-Cubed Pharmaceutical Services ApS;
- Chondrosarcoma, TMC Pharma (EU) Limited;
- Familial adenomatous polyposis, Amsterdam UMC;
- Idiopathic hypersomnia, Propharma Group The Netherlands B.V.;
- Peripheral T-cell lymphoma, Pharma Gateway AB;
- Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Novartis Europharm Limited;
- Myelodysplastic syndrome, Syros Pharmaceuticals (Ireland) Limited;
- Osteosarcoma, Hephaistos-Pharma;
- Stargardt's disease, Alnylam Netherlands B.V.

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 **three** positive opinions at time of CHMP opinion:

- Roctavian (valoctocogene roxaparvovec) for treatment of haemophilia A, BioMarin International Limited.
- Scemblix (asciminib) for treatment of chronic myeloid leukaemia, Novartis Europharm Limited.
- **Vyvgart** (efgartigimod alfa) for treatment of myasthenia gravis, Argenx.

Summaries of positive opinions on orphan designations are available on the EMA website.

Orphan medicines in 2022

Medicinal Product	Marketing Authorisation Holder	Therapeutic Indication	Date of Marketing Authorisation
		Adult patients with severe, active	
Tavneos ®	Vifor Fresenius	granulomatosis with polyangiitis	
(avacopan)	Medical Care Renal	(GPA) or microscopic polyangiitis	11/01/2022
•	Pharma France	(MPA)	
		Adults and children (aged 28 days	
		and older) with delayed	
Voraxaze ®		methotrexate elimination or at risk	11/01/2022
(glucarpidase)	SERB SAS	of methotrexate toxicity	
	Ascendis Pharma		
Skytrofa®	Endocrinology Division	Children who do not produce	44/04/2022
(lonapegsomatropin)	A/S	enough growth hormone (GHD)	11/01/2022
ionapegsomatropin)	Global Blood	enough growth normone (GHD)	
Ovhruta®		Haomolytic anaomia, and 143	
Oxbryta®	Therapeutics Netherlands B. V.	Haemolytic anaemia, and +12 years old sickle cell disease	1/100/0000
(voxelotor)	Netherlands B. V.	years old sickle cell disease	14/02/2022
Ngenla®		Children and adolescents with	
(somatrogon)	Pfizer Europe MA EEIG	growth hormone deficiency	1/102/2022
	Filzer Europe MA EEIG	growth normone deficiency	14/02/2022
Kimmtrak®	Immunocore Ireland	Adult patients with unresectable or	
(tebentafusp)	Limited	metastatic uveal melanoma	01/04/2022
Uplizna®			
(inebilizumab)			
Withdrawn by the company		Adults with neuromyelitis optica	
, ,	Viela Bio	spectrum disorders (NMOSD)	25/04/2022
Carvykti®		·	<u> </u>
(ciltacabtagene autoleucel)			
	Janssen-Cilag		
	International NV	Adults with multiple myeloma	25/05/2022
Lunsumio®			-
(mosunetuzumab)	Roche Registration		
	GmbH	Adults with follicular lymphoma	03/06/2022
Filsuvez®		Adults and children aged 6 months	
Filsuvez® (birch bark extract)	Amryt	Adults and children aged 6 months or older with epidermolysis bullosa	
(טווכוו טמוג פגנומכנ)	Pharmaceuticals DAC	(EB)	21/06/2022
	i namaceoticais DAC	(LD)	21/00/2022
Xenpozyme®		Acid sphingomyelinase deficiency	
(olipudase alfa)	Genzyme Europe BV	(ASMD)	24/06/2022
w'	C 10: 10:	Adults with primary	
Kinpeygo®	Calliditas Therapeutics	immunoglobulin A nephropathy	, ,
(budesonide)	AB	(IgAN)	15/07/2022
Zokinvy®	EigerBio Europe	12 months and older living with	
(lonafarnib)	Limited	progeria and laminopathies	18/07/2022
ionaranno <i>j</i>	Littliced	progena and iannihopatines	10/0//2022

Orphan medicines in 2022

Medicinal Product	Marketing Authorisation Holder	Therapeutic Indication	Date of Marketing Authorisation
Upstaza®		Adults and children aged 18 months and older with severe	
(eladocagene exuparvovec)	PTC Therapeutics	aromatic L-amino acid	
(cladocagene exoparvovec)	International Limited	decarboxylase (AADC) deficiency	18/07/2022
Vyvgart® (efgartigimod alfa)	Argenx	Adults with myasthenia gravis	10/08/2022
Roctavian® (valoctocogene roxaparvovec)	BioMarin International Limited	Haemophilia A	24/08/2022
Scemblix® (asciminib)	Novartis Europharm Limited	Chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML)	25/08/2022
Nulibry® (fosdenopterin)	Comharsa Life Sciences Ltd	Molybdenum cofactor deficiency (MoCD) type A	15/09/2022
Enjaymo ® (sutimlimab)	Genzyme Europe BV	Haemolytic anaemia in adults with cold agglutinin disease (CAD)	15/11/2022

Please click also on the following links to see:

Orphan medicinal products authorised during 2022 Orphan medicinal products authorised since 2000

PAEDIATRIC COMMITTEE

As of April 2022 and until further notice, PDCO no longer publishes meeting reports.

PDCO March 2022 meeting update

In March, the PDCO adopted **8 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.

Minutes February 2022 Agenda March 2022 Meeting Report March 2022

- Ibutamoren mesylate, from Lumos Pharma, Inc., for the treatment of growth hormone deficiency;
- Zinc gluconate / alisitol / retinyl palmitate, from Vanessa Research Magyarorszag Kft, for the treatment of microvillus inclusion disease;
- Peptide derivative of glucagon-like-peptide 1 and glucagon with fatty acid side chain (BI 456906), from Boehringer
 Ingelheim International GmbH, for the treatment of obesity;
- Mitapivat, from Agios Netherlands B.V., for the treatment of thalassaemia;
- Deucravacitinib, from Bristol-Myers Squibb International Corporation, for the treatment of chronic idiopathic arthritis (including rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis and juvenile idiopathic arthritis);
- Adeno-associated viral vector serotype rh.10 expressing beta-galactosidase, from Lysogene, for the treatment of GM1
 qangliosidosis;
- Virus-like particle of SARS-CoV-2 spike protein (recombinant, adjuvant) (CoVLP), from Medicago Inc., for the prevention of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19);ç
- SARS-CoV-2 virus, beta-propiolactone inactivated, from Valneva Austria GmbH, for the prevention of coronavirus disease
 2019 (COVID-19);

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 a comprehensive list of opinions and decisions on PIPs, please check the EMA website.

AUTHORISED ADVANCED THERAPIES

CAT updates are now quarterly

Minutes October 2022 Agenda October 2022 Meeting August-October 2022

CAT highlights August – October meeting update

This report provides information on ATMP approvals and extension of indications of authorised ATMPs, as well as statistical data on product-related activities.

The outcome of these assessments can be found here: Summaries of scientific recommendations on classification of ATMPs.

Advanced therapy medicinal products approvals from August-October 2022.

During its plenary meeting of October 2022, CAT adopted a positive draft opinion for:

• *Ebvallo (tabelecleucel)* for the treatment of Epstein-Barr virus positive post-transplant lymphoproliferative disease (EBV+ PTLD), marketing authorisation under exceptional circumstances.

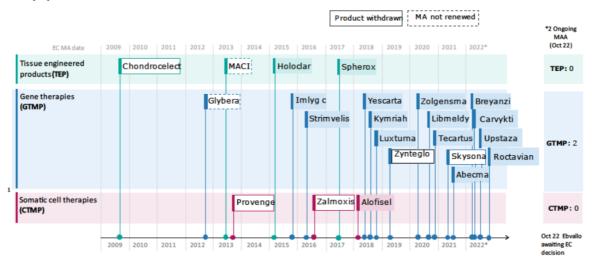
Extension of indication of authorised ATMPs

During its plenary meeting of September 2022, CAT adopted an extension of indication for:

 Yescarta for the treatment of adult patients with diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) and high-grade B cell lymphoma (HGBL) that relapses within 12 months from completion of, or is refractory to, first-line chemoimmunotherapy

For more information, see also the EMA meeting report.

Approved ATMPs 2009-2022



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.



EMA PCWP & HCPWP meeting working parties joint meeting

Last 22nd September took place face to face the Patients and Consumers' (PCWP) and 'Healthcare Professionals' (HCPWP) Working Parties meeting.

During the meeting new chair and co-chair was elected. EMA's Patients' and Consumers' Working Party (PCWP) has elected Marilena Vrana of the European Heart Network (EHN) as new co-chair. The Healthcare Professionals' Working Party (HCPWP) has elected Rosa Giuliani of the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) as new co-chair.

A discussion on the progress report on clinical trials and contribution to ICH guidance on good clinical practice was also discussed and the EMA shared feedback from the ATMPs dedicated webinar on 28 June, as well as updates on pharmacovigilance and new initiatives for risk minimisation.

For more information, please see the agenda here.

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/measured 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 the 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 on1) 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.