16 February 2010
EMA/98431/2010
j.no.7-204-05-4/1
Press office

Press release

European Medicines Agency and EUnetHTA Joint Action start collaboration on European Public Assessment Report (EPAR) contribution to relative effectiveness assessments

The European Medicines Agency and representatives from the European network for Health Technology Assessment (EUnetHTA) Joint Action met in London on 11 February 2010 for the first of a series of workshops. This initiates a new collaboration, in which the European Medicines Agency and EUnetHTA will be considering how the European Public Assessment Report (EPAR) could make a better contribution to the assessment of relative effectiveness by health technology assessment bodies in the EU Member States.

Relative effectiveness assessments are increasingly used in the European Member States to help policy makers to identify the most valuable medicines. The collaboration between the European Medicines Agency and EUnetHTA addresses one of the recommendations made by the Pharmaceutical Forum to improve the availability and best use of data relevant to relative effectiveness assessment.

Focus of collaboration will be the EPARs, which are published by the European Medicines Agency for every medicine authorised through the centralised procedure in the European Union. The EPARs reflect the scientific conclusions reached by the Agency's Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) at the end of the evaluation process, after deletion of commercially confidential information.

The European Medicines Agency and EUnetHTA will be considering how the information on the assessment of the risks and the benefits of a medicine contained in the EPARs can best be used in the assessment of the relative effectiveness of new medicines carried out by health technology assessment bodies in the Member States.

This new collaboration is in line with a broader initiative at the European Medicines Agency aimed at facilitating access to EPAR information by stakeholders. As part of this, the CHMP recently revised its assessment report templates and continues to look at new ways to improve the transparency of the scientific assessment.

The European Medicines Agency and the EUnetHTA Joint Action also agreed to explore other areas of possible collaboration or exchange of information in future.

7 Westferry Circus ● Canary Wharf ● London E14 4HB ● United Kingdom
Telephone +44 (0)20 7418 8400 **Facsimile** +44 (0)20 7418 8409
E-mail info@ema.europa.eu **Website** www.ema.europa.eu

Notes

1. The Pharmaceutical Forum is a high-level platform for discussion made up of Ministers from all European Member States. Representatives of the European Parliament, the Pharmaceutical industry, health care professionals, patients and insurance funds, on how to improve the performance of the pharmaceutical industry in terms of its competitiveness and contribution to social and public health objectives. For more information on the High Level Pharmaceutical Forum see http://ec.europa.eu/pharmaforum/

2. The EUnetHTA Collaboration focuses on Health Technology Assessment (HTA) in Europe to facilitate efficient use of resources available for HTA, to create a sustainable system of HTA knowledge sharing, and to promote good practice in HTA methods and processes. In 2009 the EUnetHTA Collaboration joined forces with other partners in the EU Member States and the European Commission to implement the results of the EUnetHTA Project and the Pharmaceutical Forum through a Work Package on Relative effectiveness assessment of pharmaceuticals as a part of the Joint Action on HTA 2010-2012. For more information on the EUnetHTA Joint Action see http://www.eunethta.eu/Public/Home/

3. The European Medicines Agency is the European Union body responsible for coordinating the existing scientific resources put at its disposal by Member States for the evaluation, supervision and pharmacovigilance of medicinal products. The Agency provides the Member States and the institutions of the EU the best-possible scientific advice on any question relating to the evaluation of the quality, safety and efficacy of medicinal products for human or veterinary use referred to it in accordance with the provisions of EU legislation relating to medicinal products. For more information on the European Medicines Agency see: http://www.ema.europa.eu

4. For more information on CHMP assessment templates and guidance see http://www.ema.europa.eu/htms/human/chmptemplates/artemplates.htm

5. This press release, together with other information on the work of the European Medicines Agency, can be found on the European Medicines Agency's website: www.ema.europa.eu or on the website of the European Network for Health Technology Assessment: http://www.eunethta.net/public/home

Contact our press officers

For the European network for Health Technology Assessment

Julia Chamova

Tel. +45 (0)72227861

E-mail: eunethta@sst.dk

For the European Medicines Agency

Martin Harvey Allchurch or Monika Benstetter

Tel. +44 (0)20 7418 8427

E-mail: press@ema.europa.eu