EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

EMA/HMPC/332116/2012
EMA/HMPC/M/H/0116
Committee on Herbal Medicinal Products (HMPC)

Opinion of the HMPC on a Community herbal monograph on *Aesculus hippocastanum* L., cortex

This document was valid from 22 May 2012 until 22 November 2023.

Opinion

The HMPC, in accordance with Article 16h(3) of Directive 2001/83/EC, as amended, and as set out in the appended assessment report, establishes by a majority of 29 out of 30 votes a Community herbal monograph on *Aesculus hippocastanum* L., cortex which is set out in Annex I.

The divergent positions are appended to this opinion.

The Norwegian HMPC member agrees with the above-mentioned recommendation of the HMPC.

This opinion is forwarded to Member States, to Iceland and Norway, together with its Annex I and appendices.

The Community herbal monograph and assessment report will be published on the European Medicines Agency website.

London, 22 May 2012

On behalf of the HMPC

Dr. Werner Knöss, Chair

7 Westferry Circus • Canary Wharf • London E14 4HB • United Kingdom
Telephone +44 (0)20 7418 8400 **Facsimile** +44 (0)20 7523 7051
E-mail info@ema.europa.eu **Website** www.ema.europa.eu

Annex I: Community herbal monograph (EMA/HMPC/354156/2011)

Appendix I: Assessment report (EMA/HMPC/354157/2011)

Appendix II: Divergent positions

One member of the HMPC did not agree with the HMPC's opinion on *Aesculus hippocastanum* L., cortex for the following reason:

In my opinion the main group of constituents contained in Hippocastani cortex are coumarins. They are described in the report. The other component, named aescin (group of saponines) may be present in this herbal substance only in small amounts and it is unlikely that they exert any important effect. In contrast to the stem bark of the horse chestnut tree, aescin is contained in important amounts in the fruits and seeds. According to the results of pharmacological experiments aescin can importantly stimulate venous tonus and this may be most important mechanism of action of the seed extracts. Horse chestnut bark does not contain aescin but contains a group of coumarins (for example aesculin) as described in the assessment report. The coumarins may have activity on blood and lympha viscosity. There are no data to show that the pharmacological activities of extracts of Hippocastani cortex and Hipoppocastani semen are the same. In the assessment report in the pharmacological section, the results of pharmacological tests of an unspecific material from Hippocastanus are presented but the plant part is not specified.

22 May 2012