



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY  
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH



**Working with  
healthcare  
professionals**

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## **Looking to the future**

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The Agency will continue to engage with healthcare professionals and their organisations to bring real-life data into regulatory science and promote a safer and more rational use of medicines.

Particular focus will be on getting the input from healthcare professionals during the evaluation of new medicines and during the assessment of safety issues of authorised medicines.

We will continue to work towards providing high- quality information adapted to and oriented towards healthcare professionals, who will continue to be involved in the preparation of such information.

# How the European Medicines Agency works with healthcare professionals and their organisations.

## Overview

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Healthcare professionals have a unique perspective to offer medicines regulators because of their real-world experience in prescribing and handling the medicines we evaluate. They have played an integral role in the work of committees, working parties, and advisory groups of the European Medicines Agency since it was established in 1995.

The Agency is committed to establishing and maintaining a strong working relationship with the organisations that represent healthcare professionals. In December 2011, the Agency's Management Board endorsed a framework of interaction between the Agency and healthcare professionals that particularly focused on the interaction with their professional organisations.

Its aims are to:

- improve the feedback we receive on how medicines are used in clinical practice, to ensure the best possible decision on their benefit-risk;
- ensure that we are providing clear, timely useful information on medicines to healthcare professionals, to support their role in the safe and rational use of medicines;
- encourage and support professional organisations to cascade information on medicines to their members, and their wider constituencies;
- provide information on how the EU Medicines Regulatory Network functions.

All healthcare professionals' organisations are welcome to express an interest in participating in the Agency's activities. To ensure that such contacts are appropriate and transparent, a set of criteria have been defined that organisations must meet before becoming involved.

## **The HCPWP**

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The Agency has a permanent working party: the European Medicines Agency's Human Scientific Committees Working Party with Healthcare Professionals' Organisations (HCPWP), which is a dedicated platform for exchange of information and discussion of relevant issues concerning medicines for human use.

The HCPWP meets up to four times a year, including joint meetings with its counterpart, the Patients' and Consumers' Working Party (PCWP), where issues of common interest will be discussed.

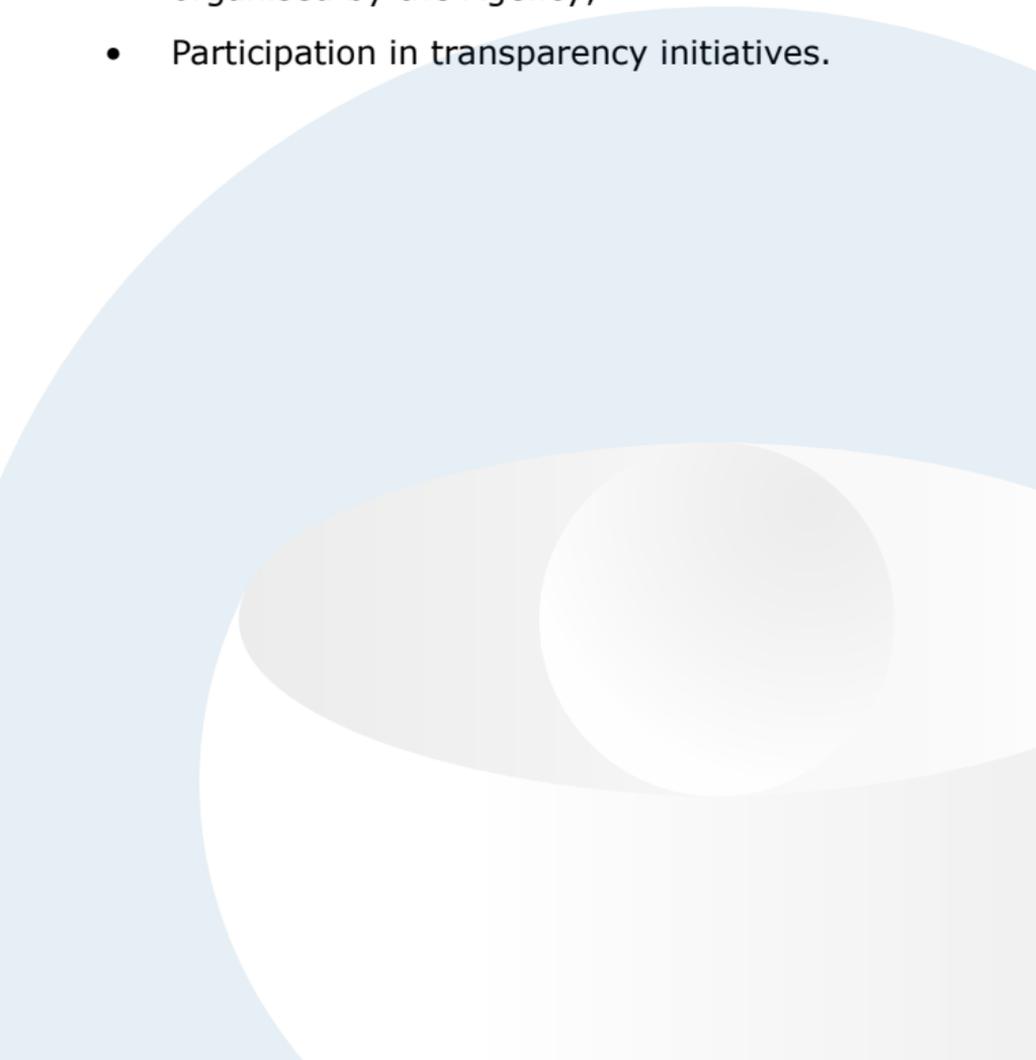
## **Involvement of healthcare professionals in the Agency's work**

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Healthcare professionals are formal members of:

- The Agency's Management Board;
- Three of the Agency's scientific committees:
  - Committee for Advanced Therapies (CAT);
  - Paediatric Committee (PDCO);
  - Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC).

Healthcare professionals are also involved in a wide range of other Agency activities, including:

- Medicines evaluation by the scientific committees:
    - Participation in scientific advisory groups (SAGs) and ad-hoc expert meetings;
    - Ad-hoc consultations.
  - Review of product information (SmPC) and EMA safety communications;
  - Participation in the European Network of Centres for Pharmaco-epidemiology and Pharmacovigilance (ENCePP) and European Network of Paediatric Research (EnprEMA);
  - Membership of the EU CT (European clinical trial database) information system expert group with stakeholders;
  - Participation in workshops and conferences organised by the Agency;
  - Participation in transparency initiatives.
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### Further information

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