



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

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Stakeholders and Communication Division

Involvement of patient representatives in scientific advisory groups at EMA

What are scientific advisory groups (SAGs)?

Scientific advisory groups (SAGs) are convened during the assessment of medicines or treatments when the committees encounter specific questions that are best answered by experts in the field including patients. SAGs are convened by the [Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use \(CHMP\)](#) or the [Pharmacovigilance and Risk Assessment Committee \(PRAC\)](#).

SAGs exist for specific therapeutic areas and when an issue arises for which there is no SAG, an *ad hoc* expert group is organised and follows the same mandate as a SAG. The groups consist of [European experts](#) selected according to the particular expertise required on the basis of nominations from the CHMP or the Agency.

A SAG meeting includes the core members of the group, additional invited experts, including patient representatives, EMA staff, and, for some of the meeting, representatives from the company who has developed the medicine.

The role of patients and patient representatives

Patient representatives are invited to participate in EMA scientific advisory groups as individual experts to share their real-life perspective and experience in relation to a particular medicine in their disease area.

Practical aspects

- Patients are contacted either directly by EMA (Public Engagement department) or through an EMA eligible patient organisation.
- Patients (like all experts) are asked to sign a confidentiality undertaking / declaration of interest beforehand.
- All documents and meetings are in English.
- SAG meetings take place at EMA's offices and expenses (accommodation and travel) are covered.
- SAG meetings take approximately half a day.



- Patients are sent information on the medicine to read before the meeting and a member of the Stakeholder team will contact them to brief them on the information.
- During the meeting, patients answer questions and contribute at any time they feel it appropriate; they are not expected to be medical experts.
- After the meeting patients are sent the draft minutes for agreement and they are also sent a questionnaire for feedback on their overall experience of participating in the meeting.

For more information:

[Video](#) for patient representatives invited to participate in a scientific meeting at EMA