EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

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Patient Health Protection

Medication errors workshop

Call for expressions of interest

28 February – 1 March 2013
European Medicines Agency, London, United Kingdom

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An agency of the European Union

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Workshop objectives

The workshop is expected to bring together the stakeholders involved in the prevention, reporting and evaluation of medication errors with the purpose of improving public health protection through the following objectives:

1. Clarification and common understanding of what constitutes a medication error and the new legal requirements for reporting cases of medication error at EU level.
2. Better understanding of how medication errors are managed at national level.
3. Sharing best practice for the prevention of medication errors.
4. Agreeing on a way forward to improve stakeholder collaboration.

Scope

Medication errors with medicinal products are a major public health burden and generally refer to mistakes in the processes of prescribing, dispensing, administering or monitoring medicinal products in clinical practice. In Europe, the medication error rate in ambulatory care is estimated at 7.5% at prescription and 0.08% at dispensing stage, whereas in the hospital setting the rates vary between 0.3–9.1% and 1.6–2.1%, respectively[1]. At the national level, various systems are in place to allow for medication error detection, reporting and prevention, and the collaboration between organisations such as patient safety institutions, pharmacovigilance centres and poison control centres in one Member State can inform other Member States and inform work at the EU level.

The new pharmacovigilance legislation in force since July 2012 explicitly foresees reporting of suspected adverse reactions associated with medication errors, and liaison with national patient safety institutions, to improve public health. The aim of this workshop is to facilitate the implementation of these new legal provisions at the EU level through the objectives outlined above.

Who the workshop might be of interest to

The presentations and discussions will include experts and stakeholders in the following areas:

- Regulatory bodies: EU national regulatory agencies, the European Medicines Agency (EMA), other international regulatory bodies.
- Public bodies: national patient safety authorities, the European Commission, the WHO.
- Healthcare professional organisations' representatives.
- Patient and consumer organisations' representatives.
- Learned societies.
- Pharmaceutical industry associations' representatives.

[1] 'Creation of a better medication safety culture in Europe: Building up safe medication practices', Council of Europe Expert Group on Safe Medication Practices (2006).

Programme Committee

Peter Arlett (EMA), Francesca Cerreta (EMA), Emer Cooke (EMA), Henry Fitt (EMA), Brian Edwards (ISOP), Mick Foy (MHRA), Thomas Goedecke (EMA), Dolores Montero (ERMS), Isabelle Moulon (EMA), Paolo Tomasi (EMA).

Call for expression of interest

Attendance at this workshop is free; however, due to limited space, pre-registration is required. The Agency will consider expressions of interest to participate and will ensure that there is a right balance of representatives of:

- national bodies responsible for patient safety;
- national competent authorities;
- healthcare professional/patient and consumer organisations' representatives;
- learned societies, academia and experts;
- pharmaceutical industry associations' representatives.

Should you be interested in attending, please send an expression of interest with a short motivation by e-mail to: medicationerrors2013@ema.europa.eu

Deadline for receipt of requests to participate

21 December 2012.

Media disclaimer

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Workshop venue and secretariat

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