



Agence nationale de sécurité du médicament
et des produits de santé

Herbal Medicinal Products Committee (HMPC)

Report 2022/2023:

PCWP/PHPWP 3 March 2023

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Surveillance of Health Products
Handling of High Risk Situations
Control of Health Products
Inspection
Fighting against medicines shortages
Organising the quality control of MDs and IVDs
Processing users' requests

“Prepare a new communication initiative for HMPC stakeholders on herbal products”



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Chronological history...

- **SRLM-HMPC Slovenian presidency *December 2021***: A national competent authority experience with a patient- partner
- **SRLM-HMPC French presidency *March 2022***: A patients-network experience regarding herbal medicinal products (HMP) use
- **SRLM-HMPC Czech Republic presidency *December 2022*** : How to better communicate about herbal scientific data and safety?
- **HMPC Workprogram 2023**

A national experience with a patient-partner

NCA Policy:

- *to introduce an added value to the benefit risk assessment and the decision making process*
- *to introduce feedback from real life experiences*
- *to support communication reports and dissemination of key information*

Keypoints:

- ✓ Identify the practices regarding the use of HMP
- ✓ How to communicate about self-medication to healthcare professionals
- ✓ How to find an official information about the risks of HMP



Feedback from a patient network:

Some concerns raised:

- Clarify the status of herbal products and their labeling
- Promote the scientific information on the risks and possible drug-drug interactions
- Create a trustworthy and readable source of information in official websites
- Identify concerns in patient groups (pediatric, geriatric...) for herbals
- Confirm the lack of knowledge or interest on HMP and the need to exchange with healthcare professionals on selfmedication



HMPC brainstorming about :

- **How to better share scientific information, warnings and interactions?**
- **How to better reach the target to give information to stakeholders ?**
 - **Become more friendly and accessible for patients, using lay language and national language, logos ...**
 - **Create templates for reports: general information with standard sentences, same information to patients and healthcare professionals, communicate on safety ...**
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HMPC Work programm 2023
January meeting 2023



Communication initiative

A knowledge on the assessment of over 200 herbal substances or preparations, mostly used in self-medication

A wish to expand communication to patients/consumers and healthcare professionals on what they need, to contribute to a safer use of HMP

Key objectives

- ✓ **Identify topics on which the external communication will focus and bring together similar initiatives already set up by regulatory agencies of Member States.**
- ✓ **Propose after survey and analysis key elements what to communicate, in which form, to whom In identifying the opportunities/limits for NCAs on one side and HMPC/EMA on the other for a possible start in 2024**



Communication Initiative: Activities in 2023

- **Compare existing national initiatives via a survey** in order to identify needs and experiences
- Analyse the information collected towards a common feasible proposal for **improved presentation of HMPC assessments** (monographs/guidance) to health practitioners and patients/consumers (communication formats, emphasis on safety and interactions of recently assessed substances)
- Explore achievable opportunities to **publish information on the differences between the status of the products** in cooperation with relevant groups/bodies within and outside EMA
- Select **practical proposals** for a patient-focused communication initiative to enhance public health and better medical practice
- **Present to PCWP/ HCPWP** before agreement on specific activities in 2024



Thank you very much for your attention!

**We are looking forward
to
the next steps**

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