

# A regulatory perspective

## *What do I want to know?*



# What does regulator want to know?

Regulatory decision-making responsibilities

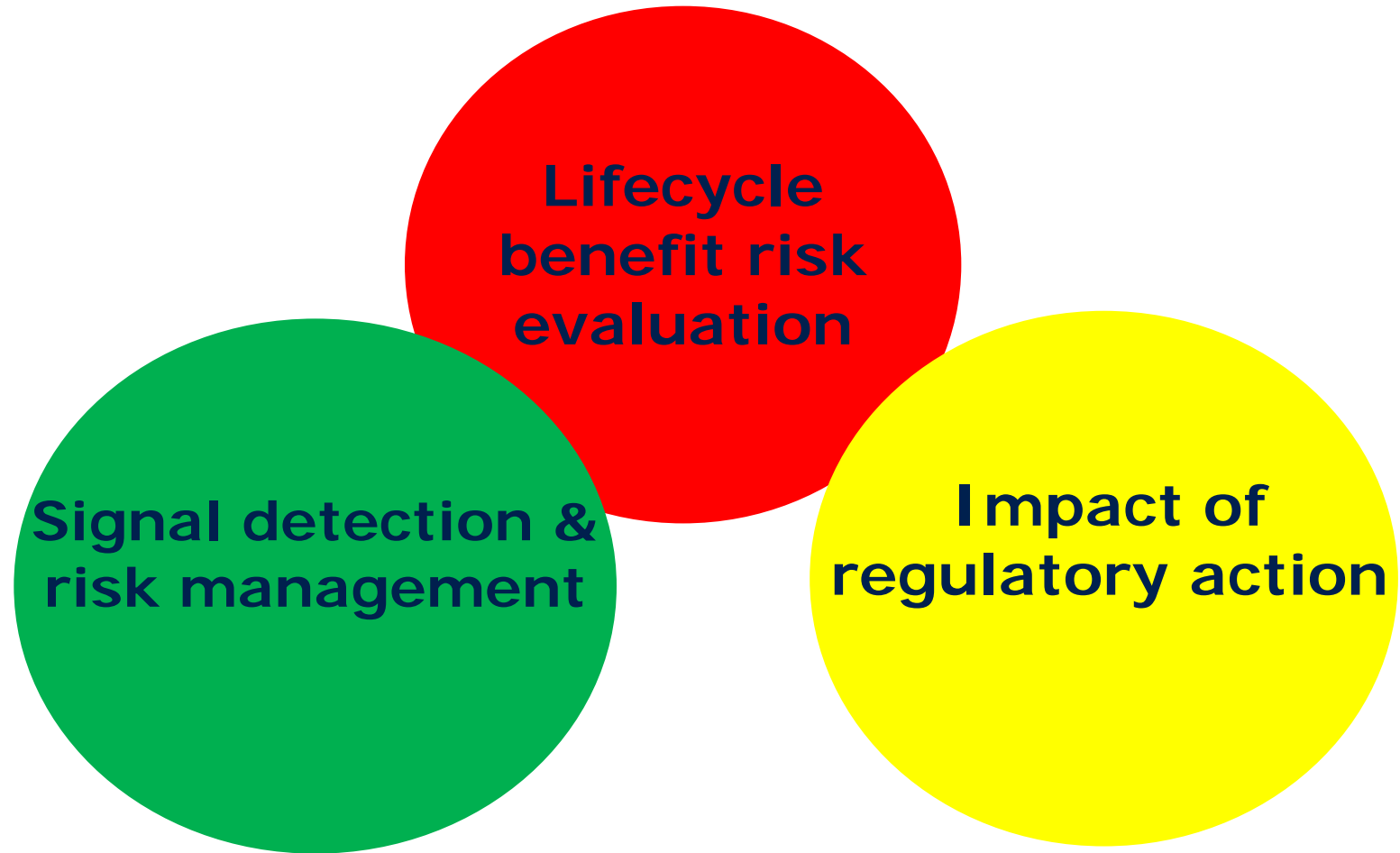
Answering the regulatory questions

Accessing decision-relevant data

Moving forward ...how can we do better?



# Regulatory decision-making responsibilities




# Today's challenge - earlier access to medicines

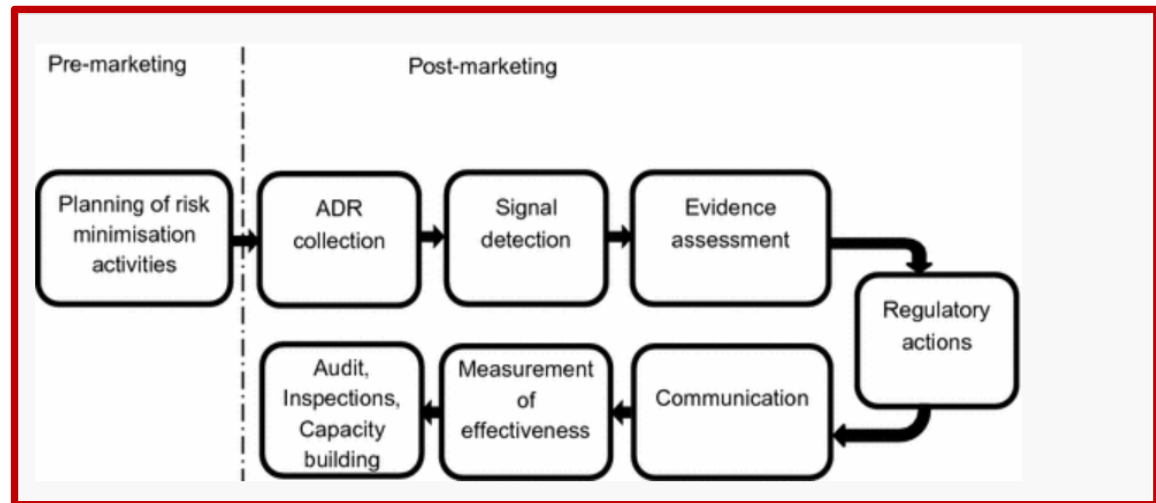


***The Early Access to Medicines Scheme (EAMS)***

LEADING ARTICLE

## Promoting and Protecting Public Health: How the European Union Pharmacovigilance System Works

Aniello Santoro<sup>1</sup>  · Georgy Genov<sup>1</sup> · Almath Spooner<sup>2,3</sup> · June Raine<sup>3,4</sup> · Peter Arlett<sup>1</sup>



*Santoro et al 2017 Drug safety 40:855-869*

# Uncertainties at time of approval

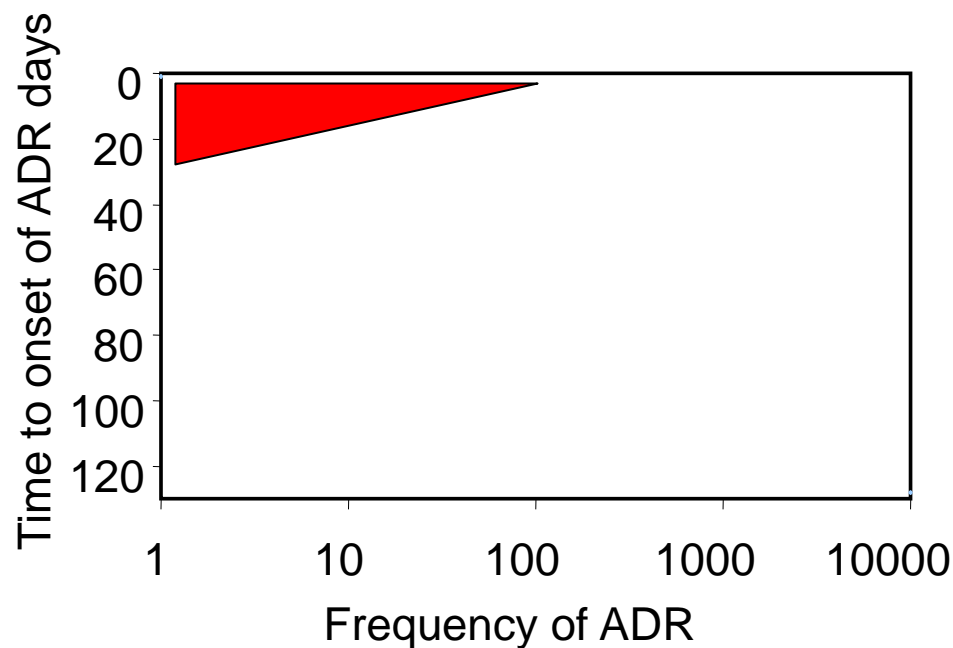
Benefit risk in wider clinical use

Effectiveness

Populations not studied

Rare ADRs

Long latency ADRs



# Size of clinical database before approval

OPEN ACCESS Freely available online

PLOS MEDICINE

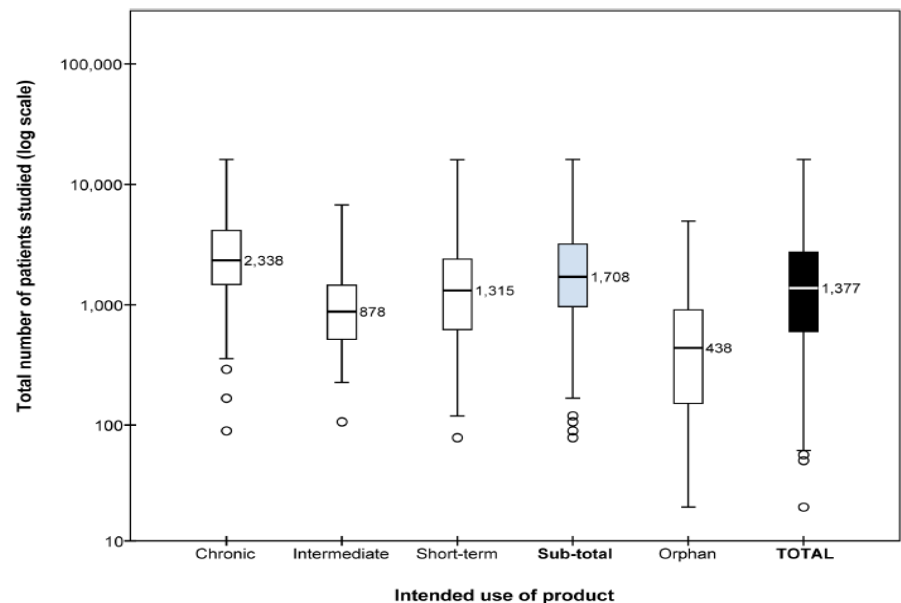
## Number of Patients Studied Prior to Approval of New Medicines: A Database Analysis

Ruben G. Duijnhoven<sup>1,2</sup>, Sabine M. J. M. Straus<sup>2,3</sup>, June M. Raine<sup>4</sup>, Anthonius de Boer<sup>1</sup>, Arno W. Hoes<sup>5</sup>, Marie L. De Bruin<sup>1,2\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Utrecht Institute for Pharmaceutical Sciences, Utrecht University, Utrecht, the Netherlands, <sup>2</sup> Medicines Evaluation Board, Utrecht, Medical Informatics, Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam, the Netherlands, <sup>4</sup> Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, Center for Health Sciences and Primary Care, University Medical Center Utrecht, Utrecht, the Netherlands

### Abstract

**Background:** At the time of approval of a new medicine, there are few long-term data on the balance. Clinical trials are designed to demonstrate efficacy, but have major limitations with regard to patient exposure and length of follow-up. This study of the number of patients who had been administered a new medicine at the time of medicine approval by the European Medicines Agency aimed to determine the total number of patients studied prior to approval, as well as the number of patients studied long term for chronic medication use, compared to the Conference on Harmonisation's E1 guideline recommendations.



For **200** new “standard” medicines median total no patients = **1708**  
For orphan drugs = **438** patients  
For 84 medicines for chronic use **79.8%** met guidelines (at least 100 patients for 1Yr)

Duijnhoven et al PLoS March 2013

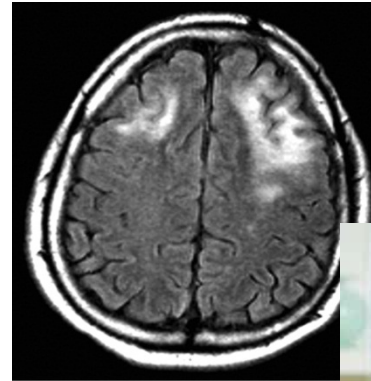
# Important knowledge gaps to be filled

## Special populations

pregnancy

paediatrics

elderly



At risk groups eg  
immunosuppressed

Long term safety





# Detecting new safety issues in EU

Simplified reporting of ICSRs to EudraVigilance and re-routing to MS

Improved quality and completeness of Individual Case Safety Report data – better searchability & efficiency

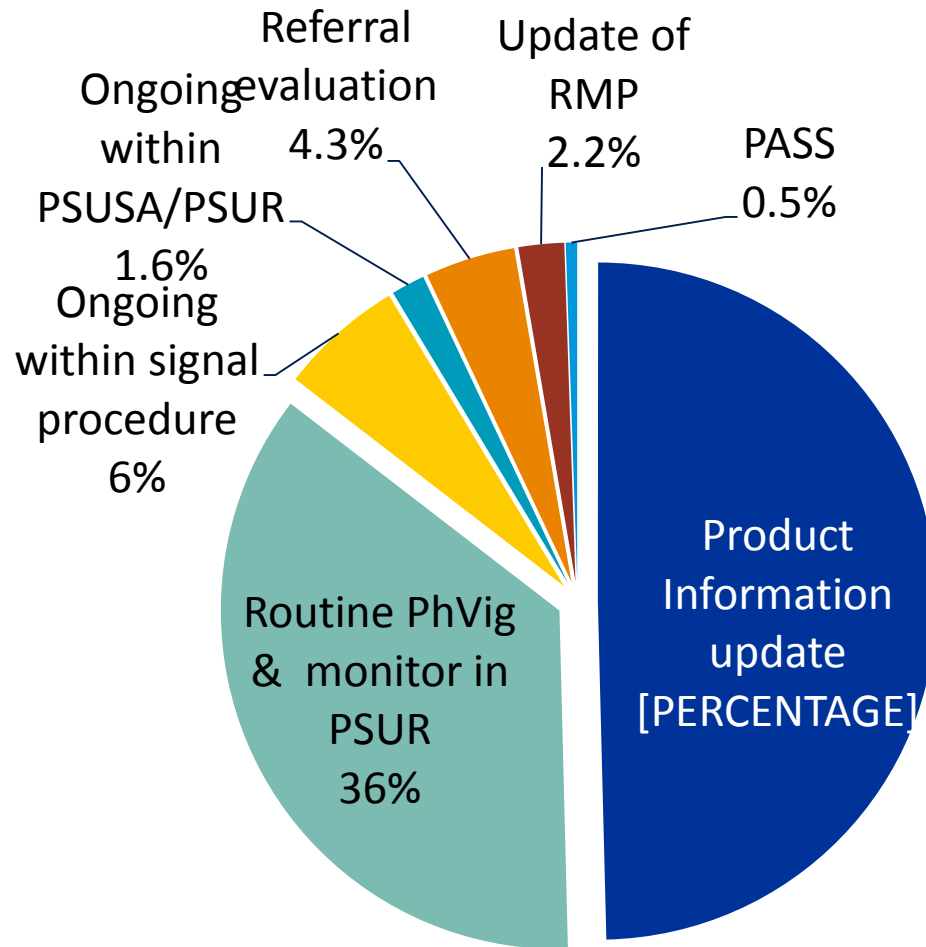
Enhanced signal detection and data analysis tools to support signal detection by member states & MAHs

Better detection of new or changing safety issues enabling rapid action to protect public health



# Outcomes of signal assessment

PRAC Sep 2012 – Jun 2017



# BJCP British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology

SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS

## Measuring the impact of medicines regulatory interventions – systematic review and methodological considerations

Thomas Goedecke [✉](#), Daniel Morales, Alexandra Pacurariu, Xavier Kurz

Accepted manuscript online: 5 November 2017 [Full publication history](#)

DOI: 10.1111/bcp.13469 [View/save citation](#)

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EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY  
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

23 March 2017  
EMA/59474/2017  
Inspections, Human Medicines Pharmacovigilance and Committees

## Workshop: measuring the impact of pharmacovigilance activities

Workshop report

5 - 6 December 2016  
European Medicines Agency, London, United Kingdom



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# What do I want to know?

How the medicine is being used

What is drug exposure

Outcomes of interest

Background rates of events of interest

What is drug attributable risk

Has regulatory action minimised risk

When will I get the answers

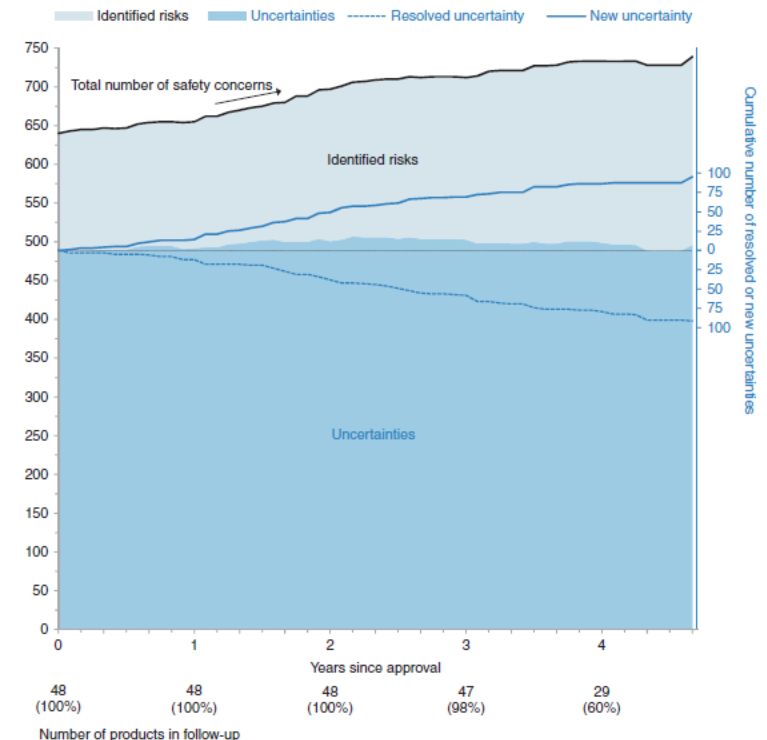


# Answering regulatory questions - RMPs

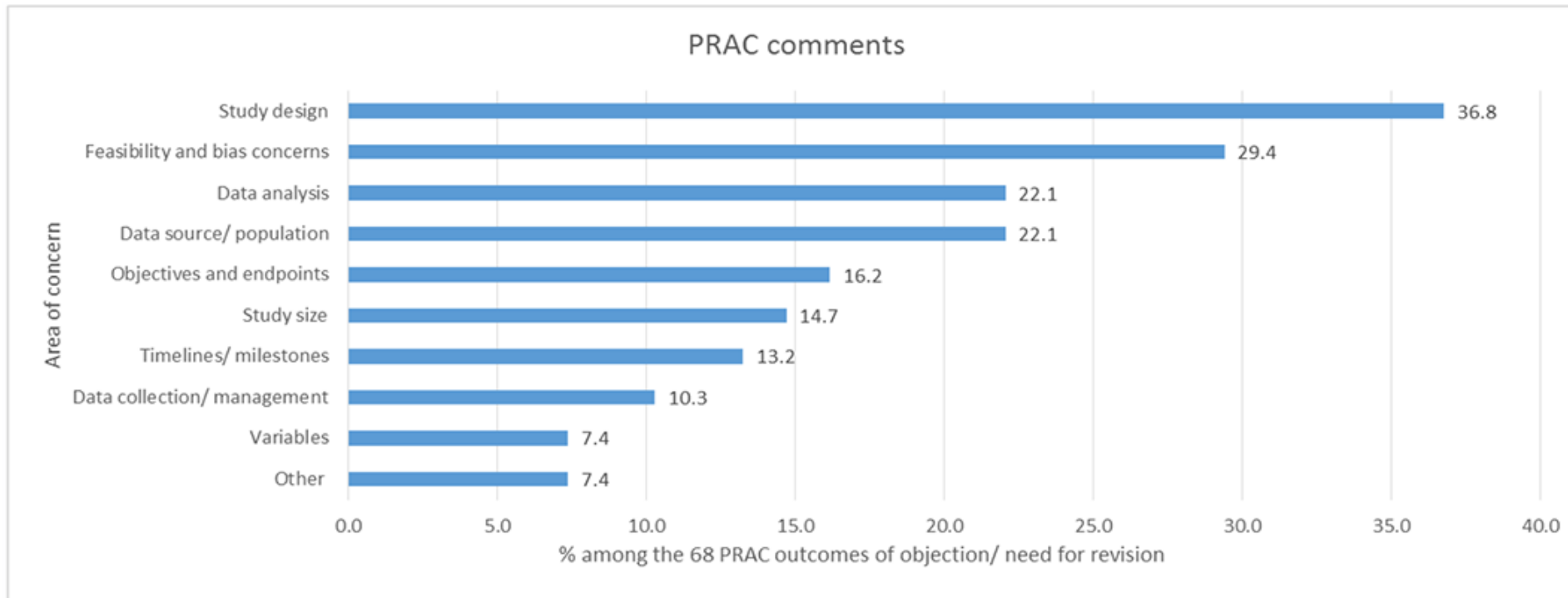
## Risk Management Plans as a Tool for Proactive Pharmacovigilance: A Cohort Study of Newly Approved Drugs in Europe

NS Vermeer<sup>1,2</sup>, RG Duijnhoven<sup>1,2</sup>, SMJM Straus<sup>2,3</sup>, AK Mantel-Teeuwisse<sup>1</sup>, PR Arlett<sup>4</sup>, ACG Egberts<sup>1,5</sup>, HGM Leufkens<sup>1,2</sup> and ML De Bruin<sup>1,2</sup>

In the first 5 years after approval, 20.7% of uncertainties identified at approval were resolved



# Answering regulatory questions - PASS



Note: Among the 68 PASS protocol submissions for which the PRAC outcome was protocol objection or need of further protocol revision. Other ad hoc comments were related to data protection, change of obligation status (to imposed), safety reporting and rational/background.

***British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology***  
***Volume 83, Issue 4, 884-893***



# Answering regulatory questions - RMMs

Drug Saf


DOI 10.1007/s40264-017-0604-4



CrossMark

## ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE

### **Study Design and Evaluation of Risk Minimization Measures: A Review of Studies Submitted to the European Medicines Agency for Cardiovascular, Endocrinology, and Metabolic Drugs**

Giampiero Mazzaglia<sup>1</sup>  · Sabine M. J. Straus<sup>2,3</sup> · Peter Arlett<sup>4</sup> · Daniela da Silva<sup>1</sup> · Heidi Janssen<sup>1</sup> · June Raine<sup>5</sup> · Enrica Alteri<sup>6</sup>

#### Key Points

To measure the impact of pharmacovigilance activities, we reviewed industry-sponsored studies evaluating the effectiveness of risk minimization measures (RMMs) received by the European Medicines Agency.

Few studies were designed to measure the impact of RMMs in reducing the occurrence of adverse drug reactions, or used an appropriate study design to evaluate their effectiveness.

Optimal evaluation may be hampered by the limited data available when the RMM is introduced, and by the time required to obtain this information.

Efficient evaluation may benefit from an integrated measurement of the different elements of the RMMs. This should help regulators to gain timely information and undertake prompt adjustment of risk minimization strategies as needed.



# Accessing decision-relevant data

## Database studies

- Eg risk characterisation, investigation of targeted AEs, impact of regulatory action

## Drug utilisation studies

- Eg to assess patterns of use, effectiveness of risk minimisation or help plan PASS

## Registries (prospective cohorts)

- Eg assess safety profile, health outcomes in clinical use, consider comparator





# Strengths and limitations of registries

## Strengths

- Relevant clinical parameters
- Natural history of disease
- Standard of care
- Patient stratification
- RCTs
- Open label studies possible
- Capture off label use
- Information on high risk groups
- Patient reported outcomes

## Limitations

- Substantial set up & running costs
- Time consuming to initiate
- Medications commonly missing
- ADRs not routinely recorded
- Co-morbidities missing
- Data ownership/governance
- Data Quality
- If no comparator will limit utility

# Patient registries – research ready?

Biologics



Haemophilia



Pregnancy

Multiple Sclerosis



Blood and Marrow Transplantation



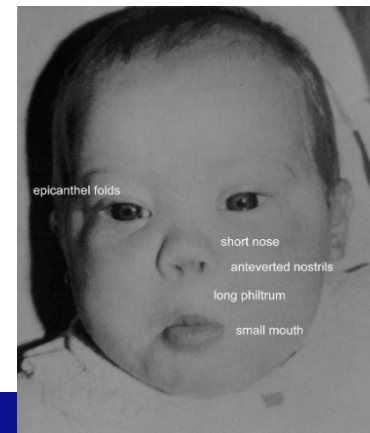
# Examples of some EU regulatory questions

How is Radium 223 used in non-symptomatic or mildly symptomatic metastatic prostate cancer?



Is Human Papilloma Virus Vaccine associated with increased risk of fatigue syndromes in adolescent girls?

Are risk minimisation measures to reduce harm of exposure to valproate in pregnancy effective?



# Understanding how medicine is used



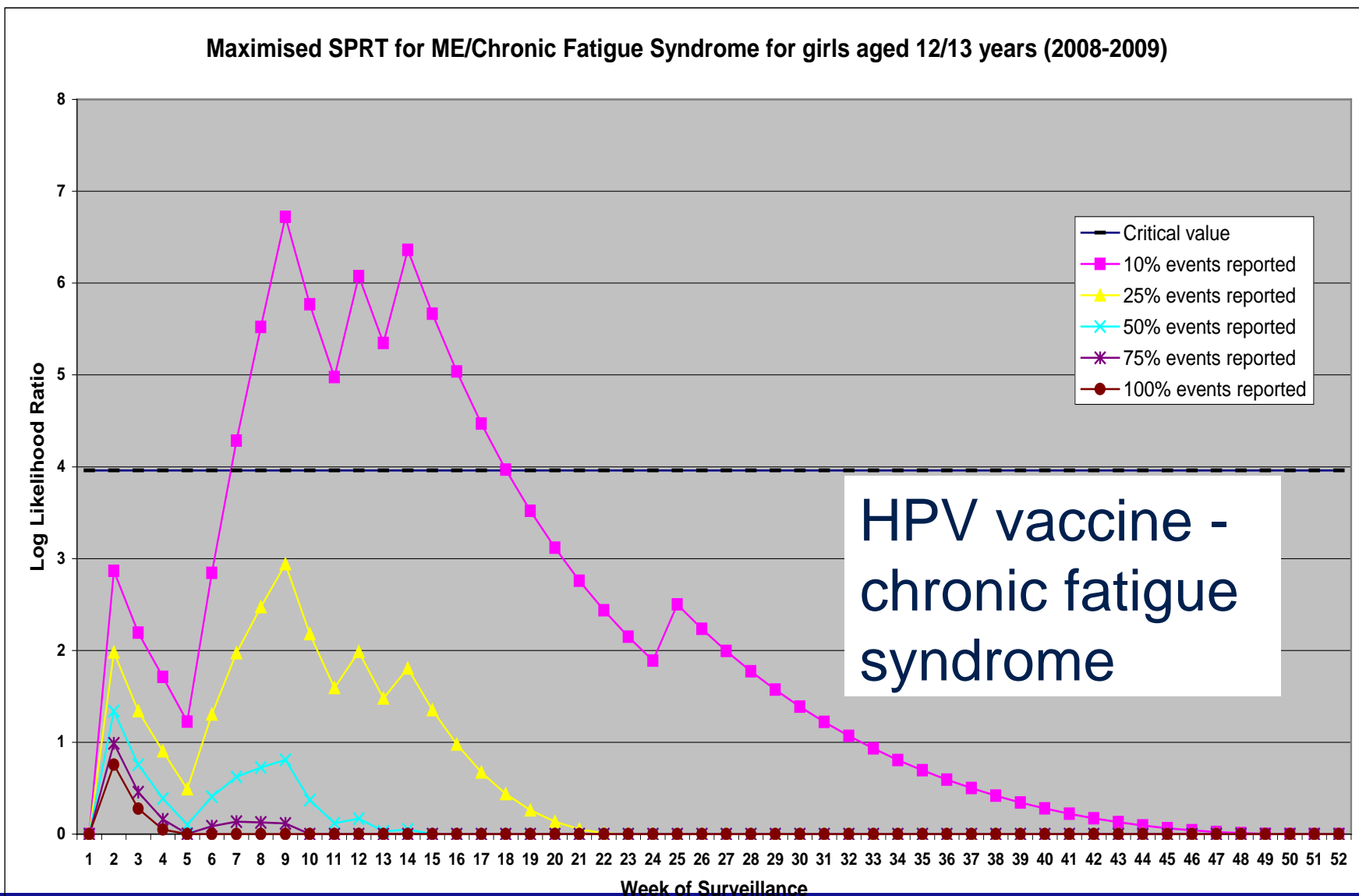
EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY  
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

1 December 2017  
EMA/789952/2017

Warning about use of prostate cancer medicine Xofigo in  
combination with Zytiga and prednisone or prednisolone  
Ongoing clinical trial shows an increased risk of death and fractures

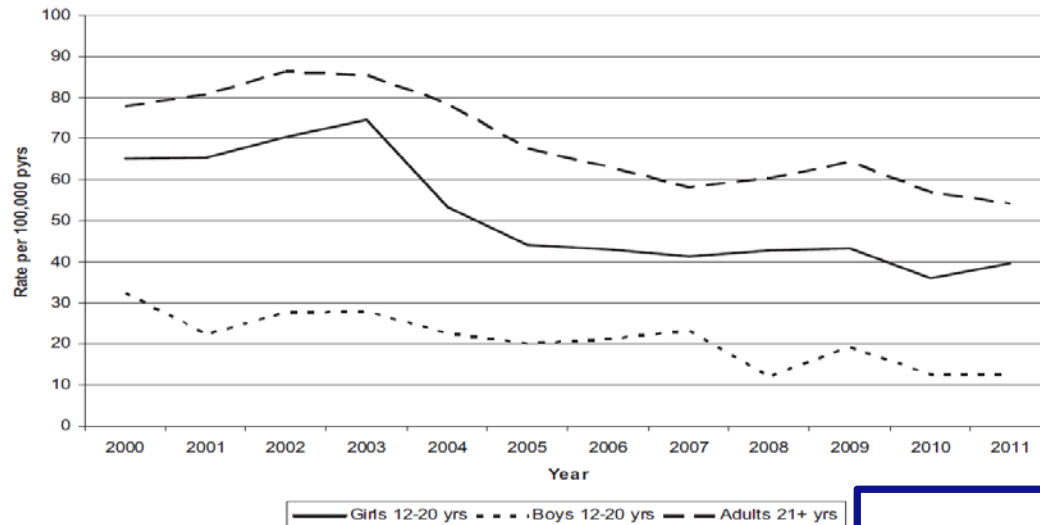
Establishing extent of concomitant use of Radium 223 and abiraterone plus steroids across EU while urgent safety review is taken forward

# ADR reports - observed vs expected analysis

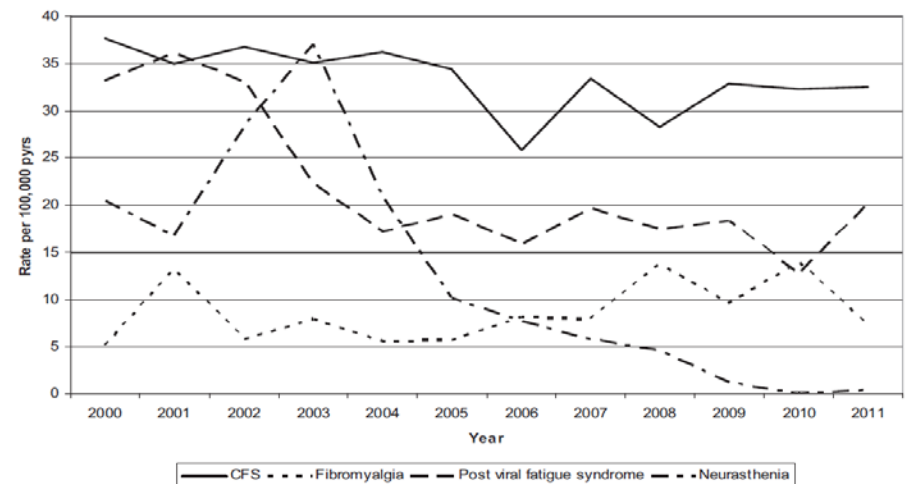


# HPV vaccine - background rates of CFS

*K. Donegan et al. / Vaccine 31 (2013) 4961–4967*



**Fig. 2.** The incidence of fatigue syndromes in the CPRD 2000–2011.



**Fig. 3.** The incidence of fatigue syndromes in girls aged 12–20 years by type of diagnosis 2000–2011.

# Investigating vaccine signal using RWE



**Results:** The number of spontaneous reports of chronic fatigue following Cervarix vaccination was consistent with estimated background rates even assuming low reporting. Ecological analyses suggested that there had been no change in the incidence of fatigue syndromes in girls aged 12–20 years after the introduction of the vaccination despite high uptake (IRR: 0.94, 95% CI: 0.78–1.14). The SCCS, including 187 girls, also showed no evidence of an increased risk of fatigue syndromes in the year post first vaccination (IRR: 1.07, 95% CI: 0.57–2.00,  $p=0.84$ ).

*Donegan et al 2013, Vaccine 31, 43, 4961-7*

# Impact of regulatory action - valproate

Developmental disorders up to 30 -40% of pre-school children exposed in utero in addition to 11% risk of birth defects

EU referral in 2014 – strengthened warnings and extensive communications

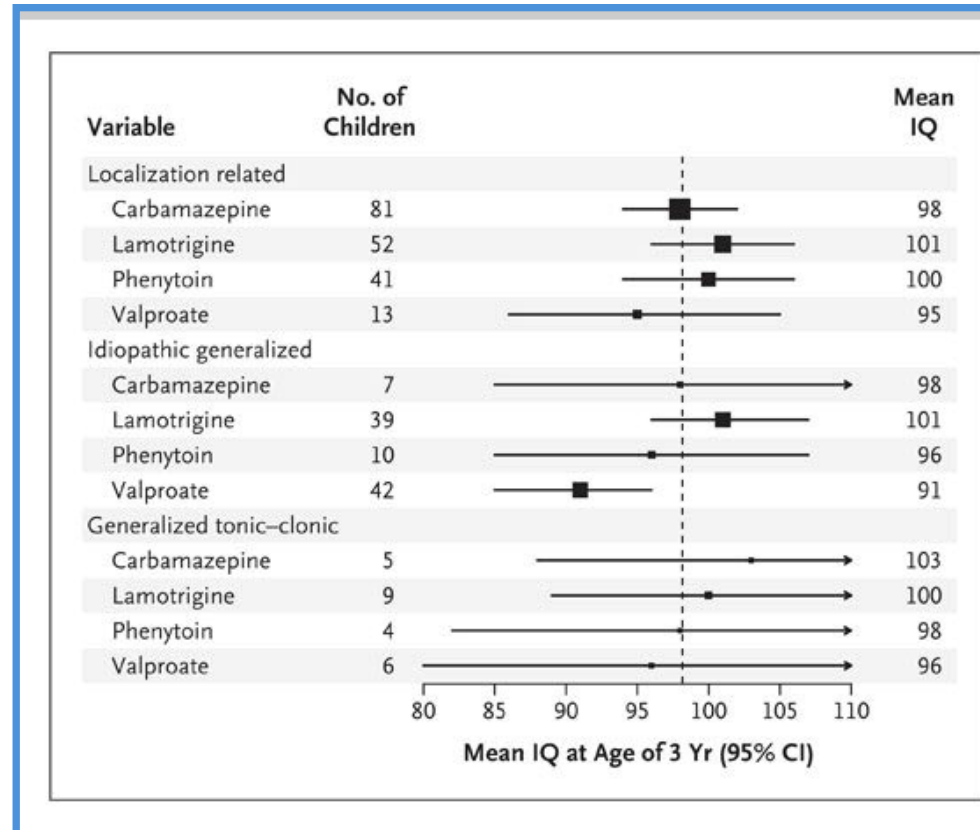
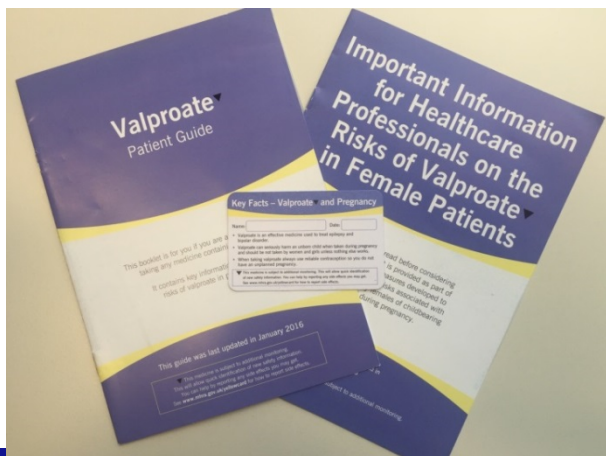


Figure 2. IQ Scores of Children Who Were Exposed to Antiepileptic Drugs In Utero, According to Drug and Type of Maternal Epilepsy.

Meador et al NEJM 2009



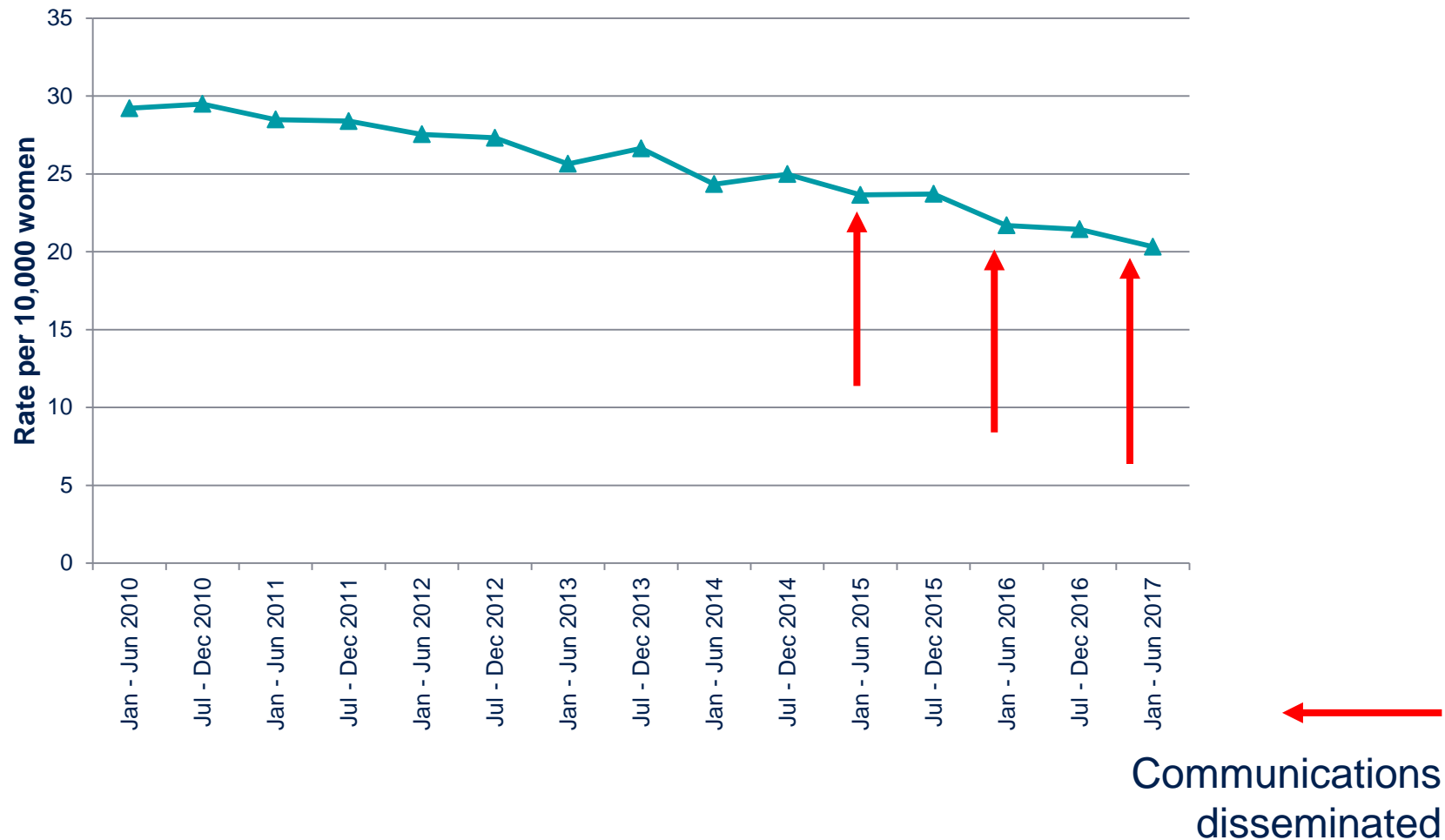
# Understanding valproate use in member states

**Estimation of number of treatment-years by country and indication in female patients aged 15-49 years from 2010 to 2012**

From 2010 to 2012					
MSs	Epilepsy	Bipolar disorders	Migraine	Other	Total
UK	42 409 (43.7%)	17 232 (17.7%)	740 (0.8%)	36 745 (37.8%)	97 125
France	7 432 (4.8%)	98 286 (63.1%)	402 (0.3%)	49 650 (31.9%)	155 770
Germany	19 410 (70.7%)	120 (0.4%)	348 (1.3%)	7 566 (27.6%)	27 444
Italy	46 222 (46.4%)	17 481 (17.5%)	204 (0.2%)	35 716 (35.9%)	99 623
Spain	21 545 (42.9%)	15 877 (31.6%)	352 (0.7%)	12 455 (24.8%)	50 229
<b>Total</b>	<b>137 018 (31.9%)</b>	<b>148 995 (34.6%)</b>	<b>2 046 (0.5%)</b>	<b>142 132 (33.0%)</b>	<b>430 191</b>

# Effect of valproate action in UK

VPA prevalence in females aged 14-45 years



# Moving forward – how can we do better?

## Real World Data in Adaptive Biomedical Innovation: A Framework for Generating Evidence Fit for Decision-Making

S Schneeweiss<sup>1</sup>, H-G Eichler<sup>2</sup>, A Garcia-Altes<sup>3</sup>, C Chinn<sup>4</sup>, A-V Eggimann<sup>5</sup>, S Garner<sup>6</sup>, W Goettsch<sup>7</sup>, R Lim<sup>8</sup>, W Löbker<sup>9</sup>, D Martin<sup>10</sup>, T Müller<sup>11</sup>, BJ Park<sup>12</sup>, R Platt<sup>13</sup>, S Priddy<sup>14</sup>, M Ruhl<sup>15</sup>, A Spooner<sup>16</sup>, B Vannieuwenhuysen<sup>17</sup> and RJ Willke<sup>18</sup>

Analyses of healthcare databases (claims, electronic health records [EHRs]) are useful supplements to clinical trials for

*Schneeweiss S et al 2016  
Clin Ph Ther 100 6 633-46*

**Meaningful** evidence

**Valid** evidence

**Expedited** evidence

**Transparent** evidence

# Generating meaningful evidence

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To be meaningful, evidence must be relevant and decision-focused. To obtain meaningful evidence...

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1

**Data quality**

*Must be fit for purpose*

2

**Data appropriateness**

*Must match data type to the question*

3

**Meaningful statistics**

*Must employ metrics that matter*

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*Rassen J at ISoP Liverpool, 2017*

# Generating timely evidence

***Example: Has prescribing of codeine in children changed following regulatory action in 2013?***

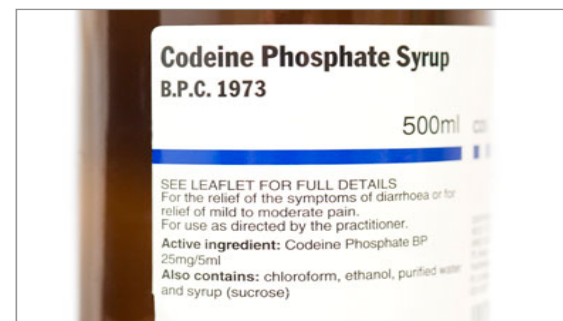
Common protocol reduces variability due to misaligned definitions, analytical models

Makes use of existing regulatory network

- ✓ Access to high quality electronic health records
- ✓ Effective allocation of existing resources
- ✓ Sharing of expertise and data

Greater part of EU population in same study

Pilot study to gain experience



*The risk of respiratory depression outweighs the benefits of using codeine for moderate pain in children under 12 years as there are safer alternatives [SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY]*

The Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC) of the EMA has recommended that use of codeine-containing medicines in children be restricted to those aged over 12 years with acute moderate pain that cannot be relieved by other analgesics, for example, paracetamol or ibuprofen.

***Assessment of data by PRAC in 2018***

# Moving forward – how can we do better?

Agree on common goal – timely access to decision-relevant data to achieve measurable public health outcomes

Scenario-specific planning for capability to link local or distributed data sources at global level, support rapid cycle analysis

Multi-disciplinary teams including regulators, data providers, pharma and academia to work on common data format



# Regulators are ready to support!



## Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee