

GENERAL NEWS

30th EURORDIS Round Table of Companies (ERTC)

EURORDIS 30th ERTC will focus on the topic *Newborn Screening: Shaping the future*. It will take place **fully online** **15 October** (13:00-18:00h CEST) and **16 October** (13:00-17:00h CEST). This workshop will explore the potentials and limits of the current Newborn Screening (NBS) approaches, and current issues surrounding tests used to detect rare diseases in NBS programmes and their implications.

Patient representatives are invited to attend this workshop with a **fee waiver (no charge)**. If you wish to take part, please contact: martina.bergna@eurordis.org.

For further information please read the *concept paper* and view the *preliminary programme*.

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Short guide on Patient Partnerships in Rare Disease Research Projects

The *Short guide on patient partnerships in rare diseases research projects* aims to encourage fruitful, sustainable and enduring partnerships between scientists and patient organisations, co-leading the way for systematic patient-centered research.

This guide will foster a partnership culture and contribute to an improved understanding of the added value of patient engagement and involvement in basic, pre-clinical, translational and social research for the Rare Disease Community in Europe and beyond.

For more information, please visit EJP RD website.

This guide has been developed in the framework of the European Joint Programme on Rare Diseases (EJP RD) by a dedicated multi-stakeholder working group on *Patient Engagement in Biomedical Research Projects (PENREP)* chaired by EURORDIS.



NOMINATE NOW
YOUR ★ OF THE
RARE DISEASE COMMUNITY

Nominations for the *EURORDIS Black Pearl Awards 2021* are now open until **30th September 2020!**

[Nominate now!](#)

In the spotlight: PARADIGM

IMI-PARADIGM

Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI)-funded **PARADIGM (Patients Active in Research and Dialogues for an Improved Generation of Medicines)**, a public-private partnership led by the European Patients' Forum (EPF) and the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA) aims for better patient engagement in medicines development.

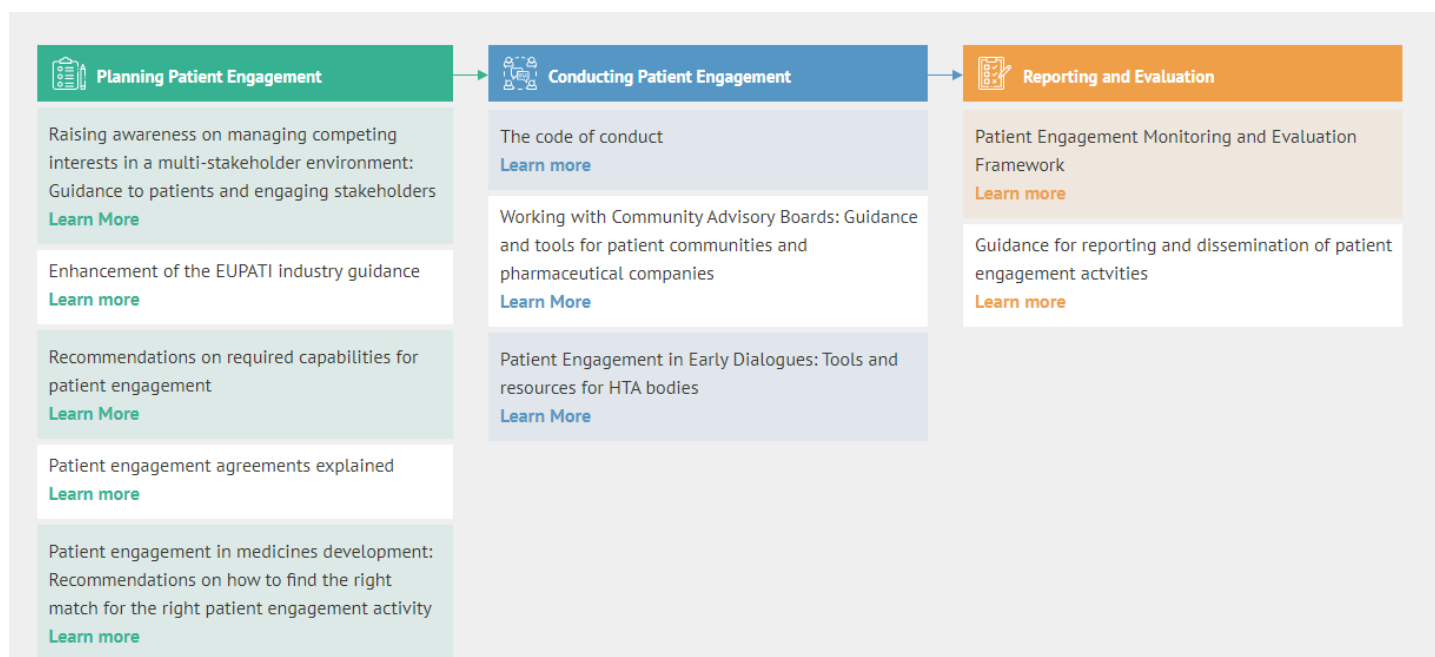
PARADIGM aims to provide a framework for structure, effective, meaningful, ethical and sustainable patient engagement at three key decision-making points in the development of medicinal products: 1) research priority setting, 2) design of clinical trials and 3) early dialogues with regulators and HTA bodies.



PARADIGM Patient Engagement Toolbox

PARADIGM has developed a set of tools that aim at making patient engagement in medicines R&D easier for all.

The **PE toolbox** is the space where you can find all the co-created recommendations, tools, and the relevant background information. The PE toolbox was presented last 10th September during the **Patient Engagement Open Forum**, see the recording [here!](#)



PARADIGM Open Forum 2020

The **Patient Engagement Open Forum 2020** is a series of online events that are taking place since **June 25th until the 23rd of November**. Some of the topics presented range from tools and recommendations for effective patient engagement, methods for monitoring and evaluation of impact and outcomes in patient engagement activities, and fair market compensation for patient input. If you missed any of these sessions, you can see the recordings [here!](#) If you haven't registered yet, don't miss the upcoming sessions [and register now!](#)



Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC) July 2020

Minutes March 2020
Agenda July 2020
Meeting Highlights July 2020

Authorised uses of cancer medicine Yondelis

Yondelis is used with pegylated liposomal doxorubicin (PLD) to treat ovarian cancer that has relapsed (come back after previous treatment) and is sensitive to medicines containing platinum.

EMA has recommended that the use of Yondelis (trabectedin) in treating ovarian cancer remain unchanged following a review of a study that investigated Yondelis as a third-line treatment in patients with ovarian cancer.

EMA had looked at results from a study with Yondelis in ovarian cancer because of concerns that the medicine could be less effective than previously thought. EMA's review found that results did not impact the authorised uses of the medicine. Yondelis can therefore continue to be as used as normal. If you have any concerns or questions about your treatment, please talk to your doctor.

For more information, please see [EMA website](#).

PRAC statistics

July 2020

9 Assessments of safety signals for medicines

4 Started

5 Ongoing and concluded

72 Periodic safety update reports (PSURs) single assessments

45 Recommendations for centrally authorised medicines only

19 Recommendations for nationally authorised medicines only

8 Recommendation for PSURs including both centrally and nationally authorised medicines

12 led to a change in the product information

60 led to no changes

46 Risk management plans (RMPs) for centrally authorised medicines

6 RMPs reviewed for new medicines

40 RMPs reviewed for authorised medicines

32 Post-authorisation safety studies (PASSs)

4 Protocols for imposed studies reviewed

1 Result from imposed studies reviewed

12 Protocols for non-imposed studies reviewed

15 Results from non-imposed studies reviewed

2 Referrals

1 Referral discussed for ulipristal acetate 5mg medicinal products

1 Referral discussed for Ifosfamide solutions

Direct healthcare professional communications (DHPCs)

PRAC minutes | PRAC recommendations on safety signals | Outcomes of PSURs

Medicines safety resources

- ❖ List of medicines under additional monitoring
- ❖ EudraVigilance
- ❖ Shortages catalogue
- ❖ Recommendations on medication errors
- ❖ Good Pharmacovigilance Practices
- ❖ Patient registries
- ❖ Rules of procedure on the organisation and conduct of public hearings at the PRAC



Click on the image to get the latest issue of [QPP Update](#), an EMA newsletter with the latest news on EU Pharmacovigilance

Orphan medicines key figures

**Since
2000**



2317
Orphan
designations



221
Orphan designations
included in authorised
indication



188
Authorised
OMPs



72
To be used in
children



5 Removed from
the market
65 Marketed, but no
longer "orphans"

To date

118

Products with a marketing
authorisation and an orphan status in
the European Union

31 August 2020

CHMP Meeting Highlights July 2020

Minutes May 2020
Agenda July 2020
Meeting Highlights July 2020

In July, the CHMP recommended **10 medicines for approval, 5 orphan medicines**:

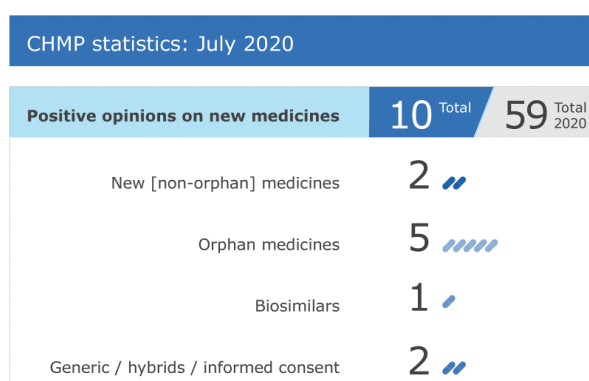
- [Adakveo](#) (*crizanlizumab*), for the prevention of recurrent vaso-occlusive crises (when blood vessels are blocked by abnormal red blood cells, restricting the flow of blood to an organ) in patients with sickle cell disease.
- [Arikayce liposomal](#) (*amikacin*), for the treatment of non-tuberculous mycobacterial lung infections caused by *Mycobacterium avium* Complex in adults with limited treatment options who do not have cystic fibrosis.
- [Calquence](#) (*acalabrutinib*) for the treatment of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia, a type of cancer affecting white blood cell called lymphocytes.
- Conditional marketing authorisation for [Blenrep](#) (*belantamab mafodotin*), a new antibody-drug conjugate for adult patients with relapsed and refractory multiple myeloma who no longer respond to treatment with an immunomodulatory agent, a proteasome inhibitor and a CD-38 monoclonal antibody.
- Conditional marketing authorisation for [Ayvakt](#) (*avapritinib*), for the treatment of adult patients with unresectable or metastatic gastrointestinal stromal tumours harbouring the platelet-derived growth factor receptor alpha D842V mutation.
- [Jyseleca](#) (*filgotinib*) received a positive opinion for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.
- [Zynrelef](#) (*bupivacaine / meloxicam*) for the treatment of post-operative pain.

The CHMP recommended granting marketing authorisation for **two generic medicines**, and **one biosimilar medicine**:

- [Equidacent](#) (*bevacizumab*) received a positive opinion for the treatment of carcinoma of the colon or rectum, breast cancer, non-small cell lung cancer, renal cell cancer, epithelial ovarian, fallopian tube or primary peritoneal cancer, and carcinoma of the cervix.

Nine recommendations on extensions of therapeutic indication were also granted.

For further details, read the full [CHMP meeting highlights](#).



Click on the image to get the latest issue of [Human Medicines Highlights](#), a newsletter published by EMA address to organisations representing patients, consumers and healthcare professionals summarising key information on medicines for human use.

COMP July 2020 meeting update

Minutes June 2020
Agenda July 2020
Meeting Report July 2020

During the July plenary, the COMP adopted **22 positive opinions** on the designation of medicines as orphan medicinal products to the European Commission (EC). For further information, please see the [meeting report](#).

Please find below the list of indications covered in the medicines that were recommended for orphan designation:

- Progressive supranuclear palsy, Life Molecular Imaging GmbH
- Retinitis pigmentosa, Institute For Ophthalmic Research
- Haematopoietic stem cell transplantation, Smart Immune
- Prevention of bronchopulmonary dysplasia, MDTB Cells GmbH
- Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, Galecto Biotech AB
- Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, TikoMed AB
- Primary sclerosing cholangitis, Granzer Regulatory Consulting & Services
- Haemolytic uraemic syndrome, Eligo Bioscience
- Mitochondrial encephalomyopathy, lactic acidosis and stroke-like episodes, Scendea (NL) B.V.
- Von Hippel-Lindau disease, Merck Sharp & Dohme B.V.
- Sickle cell disease, TMC Pharma (EU) Limited
- Wilson's disease, Vivet Therapeutics S.A.S.
- Acute liver failure, ESPL Regulatory Consulting Limited
- Gaucher disease, Clinical Technology Centre (Ireland) Limited
- Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, Miltenyi Biomedicine GmbH
- Menkes disease, CambPharma Solutions (CY) Limited
- Friedreich's ataxia, YES Pharmaceutical Development Services GmbH;
- Cholangiocarcinoma, YES Pharmaceutical Development Services GmbH.
- Mucopolysaccharidosis type VI (Maroteaux-Lamy syndrome), Paradigm Biopharmaceuticals (Ireland) Limited
- Treatment of long-chain 3-hydroxyacyl-coenzyme A dehydrogenase deficiency, Scendea (NL) B.V.
- Mucopolysaccharidosis type III (Sanfilippo syndrome), FGK Representative Service GmbH;
- GM2 gangliosidosis, Genzyme Europe B.V.

Re-assessment of orphan designation at time of marketing authorisation

When a designated orphan medicinal product receives a positive opinion for marketing authorisation from EMA's Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP), the COMP has the responsibility to review whether or not the medicinal product still fulfils the designation criteria prior to the granting of a marketing authorisation. During the June plenary, the COMP adopted **1 positive opinion at time of CHMP opinion**:

- [Kaftrio](#) (elexacaftor/tezacaftor/ivacaftor) for treatment of cystic fibrosis, Vertex Pharmaceuticals.
- [Idefix](#) (imlifidase) for the prevention of graft rejection following solid organ transplantation, Hansa Biopharma AB.

Summaries of positive opinions on orphan designations are available on the [EMA website](#).

Orphan medicines in 2020

ORPHAN MEDICINAL PRODUCTS AUTHORISED IN 2020

Medicinal Product	Marketing Authorisation Holder	Therapeutic Indication	Date of Marketing Authorisation
Isturisa® (osilodrostat)	Novartis Europharm Limited	Cushing Syndrome	09/01/2020
Polivy® (polatuzumab vedotin)	Roche Registration GmbH	Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL)	16/01/2020
Givlaari® (Givosiran)	Alnylam Netherlands B.V.	Acute hepatic porphyria	02/03/2020
Trepulmix® (Trepstinil)	SciPharm Sàrl	Chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension (CTEPH)	03/04/2020
Zolgensma® (onasemnogene abeparvovec)	AveXis EU Limited	Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA)	18/05/2020
Reblozyl® (luspatercept)	Celgene Europe B.V.	Beta thalassaemia & Myelodysplastic syndromes	25/06/2020
Daurismo® (glasdegib)	Pfizer Europe MA EEIG	Newly-diagnosed acute myeloid leukaemia (AML)	26/06/2020
Pretomanid FGK (pretomanid)	FGK Representative Service GmbH	Adults with drug-resistant tuberculosis	31/07/2020
Hepcludex (bulevirtide)	MYR GmbH	Chronic (long-term) hepatitis delta virus (HDV) infection in adults	31/07/2020
Idefixir (imlifidase)	Hansa Biopharma AB	Prevent the body from rejecting a newly transplanted kidney	25/08/2020
Kaftrio (ivacaftor / tezacaftor / elexacaftor)	Vertex Pharmaceuticals (Ireland) Limited	Cystic fibrosis	21/08/2020
Blenrep (belantamab mafodotin)	GlaxoSmithKline (Ireland) Limited	Multiple Myeloma	25/08/2020

Please click also on the following links to see:

[Orphan medicinal products authorised during 2020](#)

[Orphan medicinal products authorised since 2000](#)

PDCO July 2020 meeting to be updated in the next issue

Minutes June 2020
Agenda June 2020
Meeting Report June 2020

PDCO June 2020 meeting update

In June, the PDCO adopted **10 positive opinions** agreeing *paediatric investigation plans (PIPs)* for the medicines below. The PIP aims to generate the necessary quality, safety and efficacy data through studies to support the authorisation of the medicine for use in children of all ages.

- Fasimumab, from Regeneron Ireland D.A.C., for the treatment of chronic musculoskeletal pain and treatment of chronic non-musculoskeletal pain.
- Cilofexor, from Gilead Sciences International Ltd., for the treatment of primary sclerosing cholangitis.
- Guselkumab, from Janssen-Cilag International N.V., for the treatment of Crohn's Disease.
- Resamirigene bilparovec, from Audentes Therapeutics, Inc., for the treatment of X-linked myotubular myopathy.
- Soticlestat, from Takeda Pharma A/S, for the treatment of Dravet syndrome and treatment of Lennox-Gastaut syndrome.
- (R)-1-(1-acryloylpiperidin-3-yl)-4-amino-3-(4-phenoxyphenyl)-1H-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridin-2(3H)-one, from Genzyme Europe B.V., for the treatment of multiple sclerosis.
- Darunavir / Ritonavir, from PharOS - Pharmaceutical Oriented Services Ltd, for the treatment of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV-1) infection.
- Marstacimab, from Pfizer Europe MA EEIG, for the treatment of congenital haemophilia A and treatment of congenital haemophilia B.
- Lonaepsomatropin, from Ascendis Pharma Endocrinology Division A/S, for the treatment of growth hormone deficiency.
- Rilzabrutinib, from Principia Biopharma, Inc., for the treatment of immune thrombocytopenia.

The PDCO also adopted opinions on **product-specific waivers, modifications to an agreed PIP and compliance check** that can be consulted in the [meeting report](#).

For a comprehensive list of opinions and decisions on PIPs, please check the [EMA website](#).

PDCO May 2020 meeting update

In May, the PDCO adopted **9 positive opinions** agreeing *paediatric investigation plans (PIPs)*. The PDCO also adopted opinions on **product-specific waivers, modifications to an agreed PIP and compliance check** that can be consulted in the [meeting report](#), [agenda](#), and [minutes](#). For a comprehensive list of opinions and decisions on PIPs, please check the [EMA website](#).

PDCO April 2020 meeting update

In April, the PDCO adopted **9 positive opinions** agreeing *paediatric investigation plans (PIPs)*. The PDCO also adopted opinions on **product-specific waivers, modifications to an agreed PIP and compliance check** that can be consulted in the [meeting report](#), [agenda](#), and [minutes](#). For a comprehensive list of opinions and decisions on PIPs, please check the [EMA website](#).

CAT July 2020 meeting update

Minutes June 2020
Agenda July 2020
Meeting Report July 2020

In July the Committee for Advanced Therapies (CAT) finalised **12 scientific recommendations on the classification of advanced therapy medicinal products (ATMPs)** depicted below.

The outcome of these assessments can be found here: [Summaries of scientific recommendations on classification of ATMPs](#).

The following product was classified as a **somatic cell therapy medicinal product**:

- Allogeneic CD34+ enhanced cell suspension derived from umbilical cord blood, intended for the treatment of patients with inherited metabolic disorders (cerebral adrenoleukodystrophy, Hurler syndrome) where haematopoietic stem cell transplant is indicated.

The following product was classified as a **somatic cell therapy medicinal product and combined ATMP**:

- Aggregates of defined size of human embryonic stem cell derived insulin secreting pancreatic beta cells, encapsulated within an encapsulation device, intended for the treatment of type I diabetes mellitus.

The following product was classified as a **tissue engineered product**:

- Homogenate of antlerogenic stem cells, intended for the treatment of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, bronchial asthma.

The following products were classified as **advanced therapy medicinal products**. *CAT was unable to consider if these products meet the definition of somatic cell therapy or tissue engineering product due to shortcomings in the information provided regarding the claimed mode of action:*

- Autologous adipose tissue derived mesenchymal stem cells, intended for the treatment of cartilage lesions.
- Allogeneic viable Wharton's jelly derived mesenchymal stem cells, intended for the treatment of cerebellum syndrome, encephalitis, Krabbe disease, meningitis, meningomyelocele, myelitis, osteoarthritis, spinal and bulbar muscular atrophy.

For more information, see also the [EMA news release](#).

PATIENTS' AND CONSUMERS' WORKING PARTY

The Patients' and Consumers' Working Party (PCWP), established in 2006, serves as a platform for exchange of information and discussion of issues of common interest between EMA and patients and consumers. It provides recommendations to EMA and its human scientific committees on all matters of interest in relation to medicines.

For more information, see also the [PCWP mandate, objectives and rules of procedure](#).



PCWP and HCPWP June meetings

During June [three virtual meetings](#) took place which brought together all eligible patient and consumer and healthcare professionals organisations and members of the Patients' and Consumers' Working Party (PCWP) and Healthcare Professionals' Working Party (HCPWP).

The [first day](#) (2nd June) was focused on:

- EMA's response to COVID-19
- Shortages taskforce at the EMA, and availability of medicines
- Data protection and secondary use of health data

For more information, please see the [agenda](#), and the [available presentations and recordings](#).

The [second day](#) (3rd June) was mainly focused on the renovation of the [ICH guideline on Good Clinical Practice E6](#) which was presented by Lenita Lindstrom (EC-DG SANTE and ICH Chair). [The International Council for Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use \(ICH\)](#) brings together the regulatory authorities and pharmaceutical industry to discuss scientific and technical aspects of pharmaceuticals and develop ICH guidelines since 1990. **François Houyez**, EURORDIS Information & Access to Therapies Director presented the [patients' organisations views on ICH E6 guidelines Good Clinical Practices](#).

For more information, please see the [agenda](#), and the [available presentations](#).

The [last day](#) (24th June) was focused on:

- Pharmacovigilance and risk minimisation measures where **François Houyez** presented the [patients' perspectives](#)
- Updates on registry-based studies
- Vaccine confidence
- EMA annual report

For more information, please see the [agenda](#), and the [available presentations](#).

Accelerated assessment

Rapid assessment of medicines in the centralised procedure aimed at facilitating patient access to new medicines that address an unmet medical need. Accelerated assessment usually takes 150 evaluation days, rather than 210.

Advanced therapies or advanced-therapy medicinal products (ATMPs)

ATMPs are new medical products based on genes, cells and tissues, which offer new treatment opportunities for many diseases and injuries. There are four main groups:

Gene-therapy medicines

They are medicines that contain genes leading to a therapeutic effect. They work by inserting 'recombinant' genes into cells, usually to treat a variety of diseases, including genetic disorders, cancer or long-term diseases. A recombinant gene is a stretch of DNA that is created in the laboratory, bringing together DNA from different sources.

Somatic-cell therapy medicines

These contain cells or tissues that have been manipulated to change their biological characteristics. They can be used to cure, diagnose or prevent diseases;

Tissue-engineered medicines

These contain cells or tissues that have been modified so they can be used to repair, regenerate or replace tissue.

Combined advanced-therapy medicines

These are medicines that contain one or more medical devices as an integral part of the medicine. An example of this is cells embedded in a biodegradable matrix or scaffold.

Authorisation under exceptional circumstances

It allows patients access to medicines that cannot be approved under a standard authorisation as comprehensive data cannot be obtained, either because there are only very few patients with the disease, the collection of complete information on the efficacy and safety of the medicine would be unethical, or there are gaps in the scientific knowledge. These medicines are subject to specific post-authorisation obligations and monitoring.

Compliance check

It is performed to verify that all the measures agreed in a [Paediatric Investigation Plan](#) (PIP) and reflected in the Agency's decision have been conducted in accordance with the decision, including the agreed timelines. Full compliance with all studies/measures contained in the PIP is one of several prerequisites for obtaining the rewards and incentives provided for in Articles 36 to 38 of the Paediatric Regulation.

Conditional marketing authorisation

It is granted to a medicine that addresses unmet medical needs of patients on the basis of less comprehensive data than normally required. The available data must indicate that the medicine's benefits outweigh its risks and the applicant should be in a position to provide the comprehensive clinical data in the future.

Designation, orphan medicinal product

A status assigned to a medicine intended for use against a rare condition. The medicine must fulfil certain criteria for designation as an orphan medicine so that it can benefit from incentives such as protection from competition once on the market.

European Public Assessment Report (EPAR)

It is a lay-language document, which provides a summary of the grounds on which the EMA/CHMP based its recommendation for the medicine to receive a marketing authorisation. This happens when a manufacturer develops a generic medicine based on a reference medicine, but with a different strength or given by a different route.

Hybrid application for marketing authorisation

Hybrid applications rely partly on the results of tests on the reference medicine and partly on new data from clinical trials.

Informed consent application for marketing authorisation

An informed consent application makes use of data from the dossier of a previously authorised medicine, with the marketing authorisation holder of that medicine giving consent for the use of their data in the application.

Orphan Legislation

[Regulation \(EC\) No 141/2000](#) on orphan medicinal products



Paediatric Investigation Plan (PIP)

It sets out a programme for the development of a medicine in the paediatric population. It aims to generate the necessary quality, safety and efficacy data through studies to support the authorisation of the medicine for use in children of all ages. These data have to be submitted to the EMA, or national competent authorities, as part of an application for a marketing authorisation for a new medicine, or for one covered by a patent.

Paediatric Use Marketing Authorisation (PUMA)

It is a dedicated marketing authorisation for medicinal products indicated exclusively for use in the paediatric population, or subsets thereof, with, if necessary, an age-appropriate formulation. It has been designed to promote paediatric development of already authorised products which are no longer covered by a patent. Benefits are 8 years of data protection and 10 years market protection

Patient-reported outcomes (PROs)

Measurements based on data provided directly by patients regarding their health condition without interpretation of the patient's response by a clinician or anyone else.

Patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs)

They are instruments, scales, or single-item measures that have been developed to measure PROs, for example a self-completed questionnaire to assess pain.

Periodic Safety Update Reports (PSURs)

Periodic reports that evaluate the benefit-risk balance of a medicine as evidence is gathered in clinical use. They are submitted by marketing authorisation holders at defined time points after the authorisation.

Post-authorisation efficacy studies (PAES)

PAES are studies relating to authorised medicinal products conducted within the therapeutic indication with the aim of addressing well-reasoned scientific uncertainties on aspects of the evidence of benefits of a medicine that could not be resolved before authorisation or were identified afterwards.

Post-authorisation safety studies (PASS)

A PASS is carried out after a medicine has been authorised to obtain further information on its safety, or to measure the effectiveness of risk-management measures. The PRAC is responsible for assessing the protocols of imposed PASSs and for assessing their results.

Prevalence

In the context of the Orphan Legislation, the prevalence refers to the number of persons with the condition at the time the application is made, divided by the population of the European Union (EU) at that time. It requires demonstration through authoritative references that the disease or condition for which the medicinal product is intended affects not more than 5 in 10,000 persons in the EU, when the application is made.

Public summaries of PDCO evaluations of PIPs

They describe the applicant's proposal for the development of their medicine in children, the PDCO's conclusion on the potential use of the medicine in the paediatric population, the plan agreed between the committee and the applicant at the completion of the procedure (including any partial waivers or deferrals) and the next steps.

Referral procedures for safety reasons

A referral is a procedure used to resolve issues such as concerns over the safety or benefit-risk balance of a medicine or a class of medicines. In a referral, the EMA is requested to conduct a scientific assessment of a particular medicine or a class of medicines on behalf of the European Commission or a Member State.

Risk Management Plans (RMPs)

RMPs are regulatory documents submitted by medicine developers when they apply for marketing authorisation and include information on the medicine's safety profile; how its risks will be prevented or minimised in patients; plans for studies and other activities to gain more knowledge about the safety and efficacy of the medicine; risk factors for developing adverse reactions; measuring the effectiveness of risk-minimisation measures.

Scientific advice/protocol assistance

Through scientific advice, companies can ask the EMA for advice on whether they are conducting the appropriate tests and studies during the clinical development of a given product. In the case of orphan medicines for the treatment of rare diseases, it also includes advice on 1) the demonstration of significant benefit for the designated orphan indication and on 2) similarity or clinical superiority over other medicines; which are criteria for the authorisation of an orphan medicine.



Significant benefit

Demonstrating a significant benefit, this is demonstrating a "clinically relevant advantage or a major contribution to patients" is one of the criteria that medicines for the treatment of rare diseases must fulfil to benefit from 10 years of market exclusivity once they have been authorised. For further information, read the [workshop report: Demonstrating significant benefit of orphan medicines](#), held at the EMA in December 2015.

Safety signal

A safety signal is information on a new or incompletely documented adverse event that is potentially caused by a medicine and that warrants further investigation. Signals are generated from several sources such as spontaneous reports, clinical studies and the scientific literature, but their presence does not mean that a medicine has caused the reported adverse event. The adverse event could be a symptom of another illness or caused by another medicine taken by the patient. The evaluation of a safety signal is required to establish whether or not there is a causal relationship between the medicine and the adverse event.

Similar active substance

It means an identical active substance, or an active substance with the same principal molecular structural features (but not necessarily all of them) and which acts via the same mechanism.

Scientific Advisory Group (SAG)

SAGs have been established to provide an independent recommendation on scientific/technical matters related to products under evaluation through centralised regulatory procedures and referrals by the CHMP or any other scientific issue relevant to the work of the Committee.

Waiver

A waiver can be issued if there is evidence that the medicine concerned is likely to be ineffective or unsafe in the paediatric population, or that the disease or condition targeted occurs only in adult populations, or that the medicine, or the performance of trials, does not represent a significant therapeutic benefit over existing treatments for paediatric patients.

