

Patient involvement in EMA regulatory committees

Introduction

This article focuses on the European Union (EU) legislation and guidelines from the European Medicines Agency (EMA). It does not detail national legislation or guidance outside of the EU. The roles of patient organisations are described at the EMA level.

The European Medicines Agency (EMA)

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) is responsible for the scientific evaluation of human and veterinary medicines in the European Union.

The EMA has been engaging in dialogue with European patients and consumers since it was founded in 1995. As users of the medicines that the EMA evaluates, patients are key stakeholders in the EMA's work and have specific knowledge and expertise to offer.

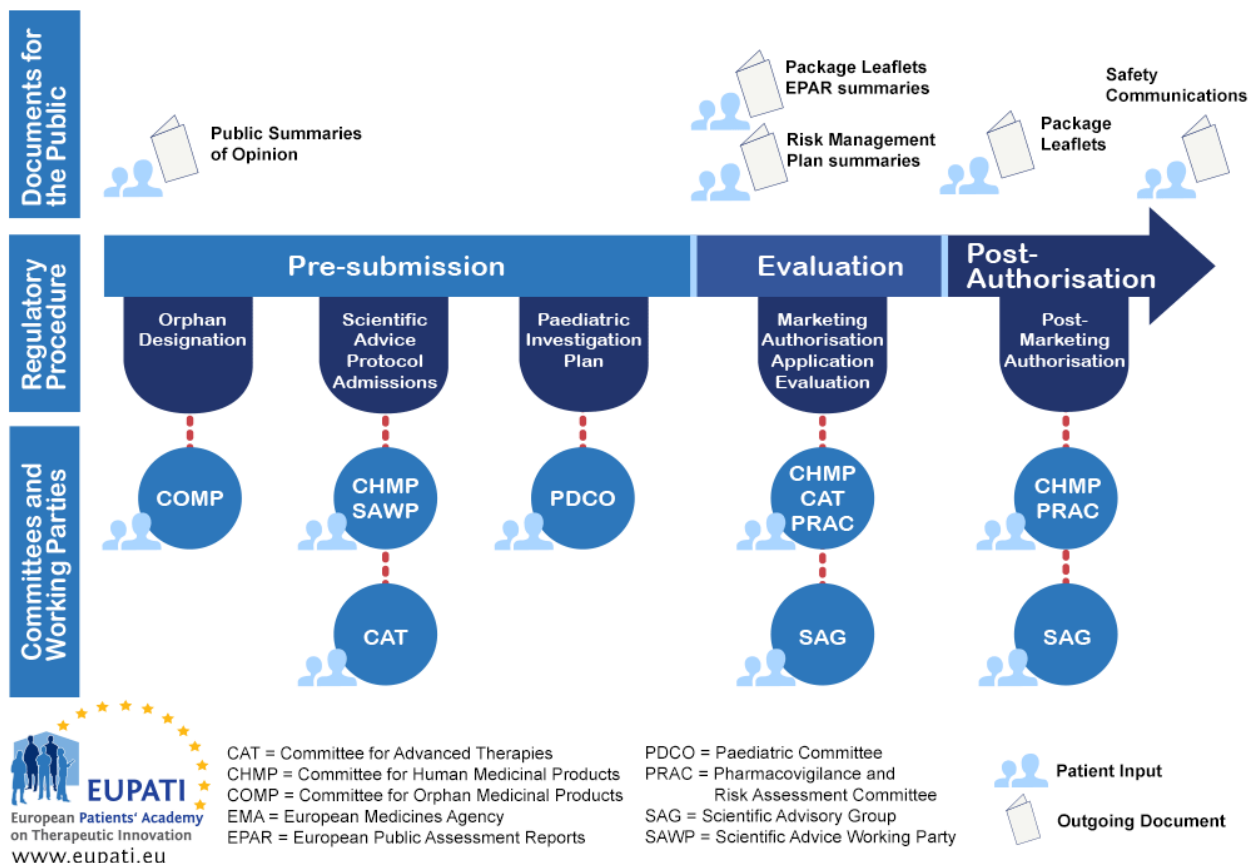
Patients and consumers are involved in many activities at the EMA, ranging from reviewing information prepared by the EMA on medicines, to being involved in the preparation of guidelines, to taking part in scientific advisory groups and being members of the EMA's scientific committees.

Patient involvement in EMA regulatory committees

To date, the implementation of community legislation has resulted in patients being members of four of the EMA

scientific committees: the Committee for Orphan Medicinal Products (COMP), the Paediatric Committee (PDCO), the Committee for Advanced Therapies (CAT), and the Pharmacovigilance and Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC). Patients are also represented on the EMA Management Board.

Patient Involvement at the EMA



Patients can be involved at the EMA in a variety of different ways throughout the regulatory procedure.

Committee for Orphan Medicinal Products (COMP)

The COMP includes in its membership three members nominated by the European Commission representing patients' organisations since its first meeting in April 2000, for a renewable term of three years.

Paediatric Committee (PDCO)

The PDCO includes in its membership three members and three alternates appointed by the European Commission representing patients associations since September 2008, for a renewable term of three years.

Committee for Advanced Therapies (CAT)

The CAT includes in its membership two members and two alternates appointed by the European Commission representing patients associations since January 2009, for a renewable term of three years.

Pharmacovigilance and Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC)

The PRAC includes in its membership one member and one alternate appointed by the European Commission representing patients associations since July 2012, for a renewable term of three years.

The role and value of patients as members of scientific committees

Patients who are members of EMA scientific committees act in the same way as all other members. Experience has demonstrated that patients very often contribute scientifically to the discussion. The added value of having patients and consumers in the scientific committees is a unique and critical input based on their real-life experience of being affected by a disease and its current therapeutic environment. The patient's efforts should focus on ensuring that this unique perspective is delivered throughout the committee's activities and outcome.

All committee members:

- Participate in accordance with the committee's rules of procedure and defined tasks
- Maintain confidentiality, declare any conflict of interest, and abide by the EMA code of conduct
- Take part in committee decisions and have equal voting capacity. Alternates may attend all committee meetings and contribute to the work and discussions within the committees with equal rights.

[glossary_exclude]Further Resources

- European Medicines Agency (2023). *Patients and consumers*. Retrieved 18 February, 2024 from <https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/partners-networks/patients-and-consumers>
 - European Medicines Agency (2014). *EMA/24913/2005 – rev. 2. Criteria to be fulfilled by patients' and consumers' organisations involved in European Medicines Agency (EMA) activities*. Retrieved 4 September, 2015 from http://www.ema.europa.eu/docs/en_GB/document_library/Regulatory_and_procedural_guideline/2009/12/WC500018099.pdf
 - European Medicines Agency (2013). *EMA/272219/2013 Sixth annual report on the interaction with patient's' and consumers' organisations (2012)*. Retrieved 4 September, 2015 from http://www.ema.europa.eu/docs/en_GB/document_library/Regulatory_and_procedural_guideline/2009/12/WC500018099.pdf
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[glossary_exclude]Attachments

- Fact Sheet: Summary of regulatory concepts and legislation, and the role of patient organisations
Size: 106,232 bytes, Format: .docx
This factsheet provides an overview of the different

regulatory concepts and legislation associated with special medicinal products, and information of the role of patient organisations in these regulatory processes.

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