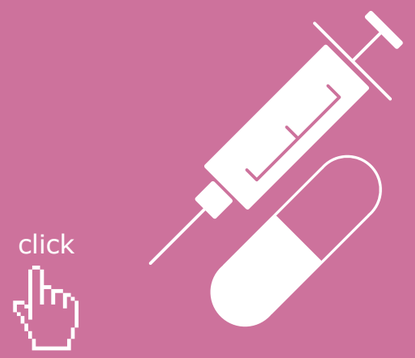
EMA

Enabling science that works for patients

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) is a world-class regulator of medicines. Its scientific recommendations are vital to provide EU citizens with effective, safe and high-quality medicines and enable an environment in which pharmaceutical companies can develop new medicines.

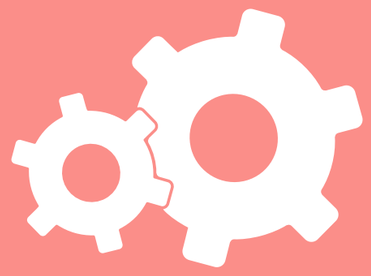


Safe and effective medicines for EU patients

EMA ensures that medicines which are prescribed and used across the European Union (EU) are safe, effective and of good quality.

Companies who want to market a new medicine centrally, throughout the EU have to submit an authorisation application to EMA. Each new medicine is carefully evaluated by scientific experts from national competent authorities. They will only recommend the authorisation of the medicine if they are convinced that the benefits for patients outweigh the risks of possible side effects.

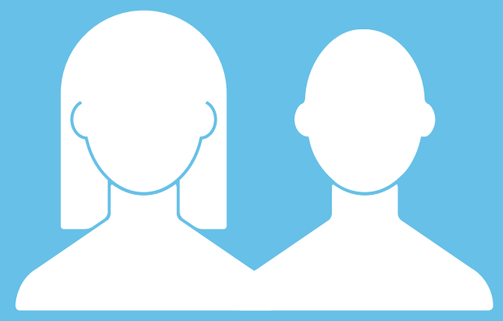
Once a medicine is on the market, EMA continuously monitors its safety and efficacy. New information about the efficacy, safety or quality of a medicine is scrutinised and, if necessary, EMA will change the way the medicine is used or even take it off the market.



Encouraging development of new medicines

EMA encourages research and development of new medicines that address the medical needs of patients in the EU.

Scientific guidance and scientific advice from EMA helps medicine developers translate progress in medical science into medicines that bring real health benefits to patients.



In dialogue with patients

Patients are at the heart of everything EMA does. The Agency collaborates closely with patients to make sure that it addresses their needs and meets expectations.

Patients regularly contribute to EMA's decision-making. The Agency listens to patients' concerns, asks them actively for their feedback and considers their views in its work.

A place for excellence

EMA gets the EU's best and brightest minds to work together for better medicines.
The regulation of medicines requires ever more specialised scientific expertise to understand how innovative medicines work in the human body. Working within a network of regulators in the EU, including the national competent authorities, we have access to the best scientific experts and can source the right people with the right expertise for the right job.

Every patient matters

EMA has specific programmes to encourage the development of medicines for patients whose needs would not be served under normal market conditions. Patients with rare diseases benefit from a programme that stimulates the development of so-called orphan medicines. Since 2000, 140 medicines for rare diseases have been approved via EMA.

EMA also stimulates research into medicines for use in children, a patient group whose specific needs have often been neglected. EMA's opinions on companies' paediatric investigation plans (PIPs) guide the development of medicines for children.

With its priority medicines scheme (PRIME), EMA supports the development of promising, innovative medicines for patients who do not have access to treatment or only have unsatisfactory treatment options.

EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

For more information on how EMA works with patients please visit our website.