

Safety Observer

Clinical Safety & Pharmacovigilance Intelligence Review

Issue N°66 – March 2011

Reference Period: February 1st – 28th, 2011

Highlights

The MHRA has just issued a new Best Practice Guide on ICSRs Reporting which should prove very useful to harmonize classification and coding practices across companies.

The European Commission has launched a new consultation on the European Clinical Trials Directive and expects feedback on a recently published Concept Paper.

A couple of guidelines have been published by the FDA and ISPE, which relate to different aspects in the conduct of Pharmacoepidemiology studies.

Regarding product-specific announcements, the French Agency has suspended the Marketing Authorizations of Buflomedil-containing products. Proton Pump Inhibitors have also been subject to a new MedWatch Alert by the FDA.

In other news, the MHRA has issued two sets of Questions and Answers as a result of the Pharmacovigilance Inspections Symposium and the subsequent GPvP Consultative Committee, where ABPI presented on two draft guidelines related to Pharmacovigilance in Patient Support Programmes and in Digital Media.

The FDA has published the Warning Letter sent to Sanofi-Aventis as a result of a Pharmacovigilance Inspection where the inspectors identified several deviations to ADR reporting requirements. The Data Migration and the validation of a new Drug Safety Computerized System was also a cause of concern for the inspectors.

In France, the Mediator scandal remained a hot topic with the legal actions against Servier while government-appointed commissions are hearing various stakeholders with a view to revise the French Pharmacovigilance System.

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1. Regulatory Update

1.1. Applicable Regulations, Guidelines and other Standards

1.1.1. Afssaps guidance on risk minimization now available in English (15-Feb-2011)

The French Agency first issued this guidance in November 2010 to standardize the submission of the risk minimization documents (documents to be submitted, e-mail address for submission, etc.). The English version is now available.

- ▶ [Link to Afssaps guidance](#)

1.1.2. MHRA issues Best Practice Guide on ICSRs Reporting (17-Feb-2011)

The MHRA has announced the release of a new guide entitled “Best Practice in Reporting of Individual Case Safety Reports (ICSRs)”, which sets the Agency’s position on how to code adverse drug reactions (ADRs) to a high-quality standard.

In parallel to producing this guide as a Better Regulation of Medicines Initiative (BROMI), the MHRA has been conducting quality audits and the guide includes examples of common audit findings and good practice.

The MHRA is promoting this guide as a tool to address differences in classification and coding practices across companies in order to better support the accurate detection and analysis of drug safety signals.

- ▶ [Link to MHRA Announcement](#)
- ▶ [Direct link to MHRA Best Practice Guide](#)

1.1.3. EMA issues new Q&As on DDPS variations (25-Feb-2011)

The EMA has issued a new “Questions and Answers” Document on variations to an existing Pharmacovigilance system as described in the DDPS (Detailed Description of the Pharmacovigilance System). It clarifies how the new Variation Classification Guideline should be used, and how Changes to an existing Pharmacovigilance System should be processed, including changes in QPPV or deputy.

- ▶ [Link to EMA Q&A Document](#)

1.1.4. FDA updates Drug Code Lists (02-Mar-2011)

The FDA has updated the National Drug Code Directory on 01-Mar-2011 and the revised directory is available to search or to download.

- ▶ [Link to National Drug Code Directory Page](#)

The “Drugs@FDA” Downloadable Data Files were last updated on 02-Mar-2011.

- ▶ [Link to Drugs@FDA Page](#)

1.2. Developments to watch

1.2.1. France to revise Pharmacovigilance System after Mediator scandal (Feb-2011)

As a result of the Mediator scandal, the French Senate and the French Parliament have established Commissions to propose changes to French regulations where various stakeholders are heard, including the founder of the Mediator manufacturer, Dr Jacques SERVIER. During his hearing, the French Health Minister has announced that 6 working groups have been established to make proposals for the French Pharmacovigilance System before the summer 2011. The lists of members of the commission, the minutes and other documents are made publically available.

- ▶ [Link to the Senate Webpage \(in French\)](#)
- ▶ [Link to the Parliament Webpage \(in French\)](#)

1.2.2. FDA Draft Guidance on DHCP Letters: Consultation Results (Feb-2011)

As reported previously, FDA published for consultation draft guidance entitled “Dear Health Care Provider Letters: Improving Communication of Important Safety Information”. This guidance provides recommendations on when to use a DHCP letter and about the content and format of a DHCP letter.

The consultation period ended on 11-Jan-2011, and the comments received by the FDA are now publically available including those received by PhRMA (The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America), which represents the leading pharmaceutical research and biotechnology companies.

- ▶ [Link to Public Comments](#)

1.2.3. New consultation on the European Clinical Trials Directive (09-Feb-2011)

As mentioned earlier, the European Commission is planning to put forward, in 2012, a legislative proposal to revise the Clinical Trials Directive 2001/20/EC. For this purpose, a concept paper has been published for public consultation, which includes a 'preliminary appraisal' of the options that appear most suitable to address the key concerns with the Clinical Trials Directive.

The purpose of this consultation is to obtain feedback on the options developed after the public consultation held at the end of 2009. Amongst others, it includes proposals to implement a single Clinical Trial Application submission at the EU level. Regarding Drug Safety, it is proposed to have more precise and risk-adapted rules for safety reporting but no further detail is provided at this stage.

Comments are requested by 13-May-2011.

- ▶ [Link to EU Consultation Document](#)

1.2.4. FDA issues Draft Guidance on Pharmacoepidemiologic Safety Studies (16-Feb-2011)

The FDA has announced the availability of a new draft guidance entitled “Best Practices for Conducting and Reporting Pharmacoepidemiologic Safety Studies Using Electronic Healthcare Data Sets”. The draft guidance includes recommendations for documenting the design, analysis, and results of such studies and submitting pharmacoepidemiologic safety study protocols and reports to FDA.

Comments are requested by 18-Apr-2011.

- ▶ [Link to Federal Register Notice](#)
- ▶ [Link to FDA Draft Guidance](#)

1.2.5. [FDA issues Draft Guidance on Medication Guides \(25-Feb-2011\)](#)

The FDA has announced the availability of a new draft guidance entitled “Medication Guides – Distribution Requirements and Inclusion in Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies (REMS)”. The draft guidance clarifies when a Medication Guide will be required as part of a REMS and also when the FDA intends to exercise enforcement discretion regarding dispensing requirements for Medication Guides in specific settings where the product is not dispensed directly to a patient (e.g. hospital).

Comments are requested by 31-May-2011.

- ▶ [Link to Federal Register Notice](#)
- ▶ [Link to FDA Draft Guidance](#)

1.2.6. [ISPE issues new Guideline on Pharmacoepidemiology \(28-Feb-2011\)](#)

ISPE (The International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology) has issued a new document entitled “Guidelines for quality conduct in database research in pharmacoepidemiology”, which provides guidance on the selection and use of multi-purpose data resources in pharmacoepidemiology.

- ▶ [Link the ISPE Guideline](#)

1.3. Beyond the borders of Safety Observer

1.3.1. [Austria updates Guidance on Non-Interventional Studies \(28-Jan-2011\)](#)

The Austrian AGES has updated its “Scientific Guidance for the Conduct of Non-Interventional Studies (NIS) in Austria”, which purpose is to aid in the planning, reporting and conduct of this type of trials. This document is available in both English and German, and includes a section on Collection and Reporting of Adverse Events.

- ▶ [Link to AGES Page \(in German\)](#)
- ▶ [Link to AGES Page \(in English\)](#)

1.3.2. [Spain updates Guidance on electronic transmission of ICSRs \(11-Feb-2011\)](#)

The Spanish Agency has published updated guidance regarding the electronic reporting of Individual Case Safety Reports (ICSRs). It includes the application form to request testing on electronic transmission with AEMPS, and the table of Autonomous Communities.

- ▶ [Link to AEMPS Page \(Spanish / English\)](#)

1.3.3. [Spain provides updated Cover Letter Template for SUSAR Submissions \(11-Feb-2011\)](#)

The Spanish Agency has also made available a new template for the Cover Letter to be used for SUSAR submissions (Annex A4).

- ▶ [Link to AEMPS Page \(Spanish\)](#)

1.3.4. [Health Canada introduces amendment to ADR reporting requirements \(03-Mar-2011\)](#)

An amendment to the adverse drug reaction reporting requirements has been published on 02-Mar-2011, which requires manufacturers to notify the Minister when they identify significant safety signals in their annual summary reports, and clarifies when the Minister can request case reports or summary reports.

- ▶ [Link to Health Canada Notice](#)
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1.4. The Safety Observer Tracker

In this section, we provide you with a cumulative list of the future deadlines for implementation and end of consultation periods, which are associated to the most important announcements made in the current and previous issues of Safety Observer. For your convenience, a link to the main sources is provided and we also specify the issue where the corresponding article can be found.

By When ?	What ?	Issue
28-Mar-2011	Implementation of FDA Final Rule on IND Safety Reporting (Link)	61
18-Apr-2011	Consultation on FDA Draft Guidance for Pharmacoepidemiologic Safety Studies (Link)	66
13-May-2011	Consultation on Concept Paper for the revision of the European Clinical Trials Directive (Link)	66
31-May-2011	Consultation on FDA Draft Guidance on Medication Guides (Link)	66
Sep-2011	Implementation of E2F DSUR Guideline in Europe (Link)	63
21-Jul-2012	Implementation of the New European Pharmacovigilance legislation (Link)	64

2. Safety Update

2.1. Buflomedil (Fonzylane® and generics)

[Afssaps decides to suspend marketing authorization \(17-Feb-2011\)](#)

After review of the benefit/risk ratio, Afssaps has decided to suspend the marketing authorization of this drug prescribed for the treatment of symptoms of peripheral arterial occlusive disease because of high risk of cardiac and nervous toxicity, especially following accidental or voluntary overdose.

Immediate recall of all batches available on the market has been initiated.

► [Link to Afssaps Press Release \(in French\)](#)

2.2. Thalidomide (Thalidomide Celgene®)

[Afssaps issues results of review after 15 months of marketing \(17-Feb-2011\)](#)

Afssaps issued a report to present the results of the prescribing survey set-up by Celgene and the results of the safety follow-up of this drug authorised for the treatment of myeloma. The survey and the specific monitoring were part of the French Risk Management Plan. The results show that the preventive plan against pregnancy is appropriately followed. No pregnancy and no new safety signal have been detected.

► [Link to Afssaps Press Release \(in French\)](#)

2.3. Terbutaline

[FDA warns against use for treatment of preterm labor \(17-Feb-2011\)](#)

The FDA has notified healthcare professionals that oral and injectable terbutaline should not be used in pregnant women for prevention or prolonged treatment of preterm labor because of the potential for serious maternal heart problems and death. The product approved for the treatment of bronchospasm is sometimes used off-label for acute obstetric uses, and the FDA has now required the addition of a new Boxed Warning to the labels to warn healthcare professionals about the associated risks.

▶ [Link to FDA MedWatch Alert](#)

2.4. H1N1 influenza vaccine (Pandemrix®)

[EMA reviews further data on possible association with narcolepsy \(18-Feb-2011\)](#)

The EMA has announced that it has reviewed further data from Finland on the suspected link between narcolepsy in children and adolescents and Pandemrix. The Agency concluded that the new evidence added to the concern arising from case reports but that the data were still insufficient to establish a causal relationship between Pandemrix and narcolepsy. Further analyses and study results are awaited to clarify the observations in Finland and no changes to the recommendations for use of Pandemrix are proposed at this time.

▶ [Link to EMA Press Release](#)

2.5. Antipsychotic drugs

[FDA updates drug labels due to Risk to Newborns \(22-Feb-2011\)](#)

The FDA has notified healthcare professionals that the Pregnancy section of drug labels for the entire class of antipsychotic drugs has been updated to include information about the potential risk for abnormal muscle movements (extrapyramidal signs or EPS) and withdrawal symptoms in newborns whose mothers were treated with these drugs during the third trimester of pregnancy.

▶ [Link to FDA MedWatch Alert](#)

2.6. Abacavir (Ziagen®, Trizivir® and Epzicom®)

[FDA finds no increased risk of Heart Attack \(01-Mar-2011\)](#)

The FDA has provided an update about the ongoing safety review of abacavir where the Agency has received conflicting information on the potential increased risk of myocardial infarction with abacavir treatment. The FDA has conducted a meta-analysis of 26 randomized clinical trials that did not show an increased risk of MI associated with the use of abacavir, which is an antiviral used in the treatment of HIV-1 infection.

▶ [Link to FDA MedWatch Alert](#)

2.7. Proton Pump Inhibitor drugs (PPIs)

[FDA highlights potential low magnesium levels due to long-term use \(02-Mar-2011\)](#)

The FDA has notified healthcare professionals and the public that prescription proton pump inhibitor (PPI) drugs may cause hypomagnesemia if taken for prolonged periods of time, which can result in serious adverse events including tetany, arrhythmias, and seizures. In approximately 25% of the cases reviewed, magnesium supplementation did not improve low serum magnesium levels and the PPI had to be discontinued.

Healthcare professionals are invited to monitor serum magnesium levels and corresponding information will be added to the labels for all prescription PPIs.

▶ [Link to FDA MedWatch Alert](#)

2.8. Topiramate (Topamax®)

[FDA warns about the risk of Birth Defects \(04-Mar-2011\)](#)

The FDA has notified healthcare professionals and the public of an increased risk of development of cleft lip and/or cleft palate in infants born to women treated during pregnancy with Topamax, which is approved in the treatment of epilepsy. The new data came from the North American Antiepileptic Drug (NAAED) Pregnancy Registry, and the patient medication guide and prescribing information for Topamax and generic topiramate will be updated with the new information.

▶ [Link to FDA MedWatch Alert](#)

2.9. Lopinavir/ritonavir (Kaletra®)

[FDA warns about Serious Adverse Effects in Premature Babies \(08-Mar-2011\)](#)

The FDA has notified healthcare professionals of serious health problems that have been reported in premature babies receiving Kaletra oral solution, which is an antiviral medication used for the treatment of HIV-1 infection in pediatric patients. This product contains propylene glycol, which premature babies cannot eliminate appropriately. This could lead to adverse events such as serious heart, kidney, or breathing problems and the label is being revised to include a new warning that using Kaletra oral solution in babies immediately after birth can be severe or possibly fatal.

▶ [Link to FDA MedWatch Alert](#)

3. Quality Assurance, Inspections and Audits

3.1. MHRA GPvP Consultative Committee: New material available

The MHRA has now published the minutes of the last meeting of the Good Pharmacovigilance Practice Consultative Committee, which was held on 07-Dec-2010.

The ABPI Pharmacovigilance Expert Network (PEN) took the opportunity to introduce two draft guidelines on Patient Support Programmes (PSPs) and on Pharmacovigilance in Digital Media, which should be published shortly.

The MHRA presented on the current status of administrative sanctions, which are not expected to be implemented before July 2012 after public consultation.

As usual, the information published includes the results of the Questions and Answers session, which includes again a few questions regarding the management of Pharmacovigilance information in Digital Media, amongst others.

▶ [Link to MHRA Page](#)

3.2. MHRA Pharmacovigilance Inspections Symposium Q&As

The MHRA has also published a document containing the answers made by the Agency in response to questions that were either submitted prior to or submitted on the day of the symposium, which was held on 23-Nov-2010.

The 17-page document presents all questions received on various topics, including PSUR harmonisation, Audits and Inspections, and the implementation of the new EU Pharmacovigilance legislation.

▶ [Link to MHRA Page](#)

3.3. BARQA issues new booklet on the Role of QA in Outsourcing

BARQA (The Research Quality Association) has produced a new booklet on the Role of QA in Outsourcing, which is now available for purchase. This guide is intended to provide guidance on audits of third parties and related activities across all GxPs.

- ▶ [Link to BARQA Page](#)

3.4. Sanofi-Aventis receives FDA Warning Letter on ADR reporting failures

The FDA has just published a new warning letter dated 28-Jan-2011, which relates to deviations to the Postmarketing Adverse Drug Experience Reporting Requirements identified during an inspection conducted at Sanofi-Aventis from April to May 2010.

According to the Warning Letter, 185 initial reports and 127 follow-up reports were submitted late by the company in the period from 01-Jan-2009 to 31-Mar-2010, which includes cases submitted with a delay of more than two years. In relation to this, the FDA highlights their concern that the ADE reporting system has not been fully validated, and the Warning Letter identifies issues caused by data migration.

The company is also cited for their failure to include all postmarketing studies and summaries of completed clinical trials in the NDA Annual Reports submitted to the FDA for marketed drug products.

- ▶ [Link to FDA Warning Letter](#)

4. Drug Safety and Business Risk

4.1. Servier and Mediator®

[First trials files in France for "aggravated deception"](#)

The first "Mediator" trial is planned to be held in September or October 2011. On the other hand, a preliminary inquiry for involuntary homicides (more than 300 claims received) could delay the legal proceedings.

- ▶ [Link to Les Echos article \(in French\)](#)

[Servier makes € 20 Million available for compensation](#)

Servier has announced that it has established a € 20 Million fund for victims' compensation, which plaintiffs' lawyers consider insufficient.

- ▶ [Link to les Echos article \(in French\)](#)

4.2. Merck and Fosamax®

[Merck & Co wins US state court case on ONJ link](#)

A New Jersey jury has ruled that the Merck's osteoporosis drug Alendronate did not cause a woman to develop osteonecrosis of the jaw (ONJ). Merck announced that it won 3 lawsuits until now, and is appealing the one it has lost. The company is facing 1,180 lawsuits related to Fosamax, which represent about 1,560 plaintiff groups.

- ▶ [Link to PharmaLive article](#)
- ▶ [Link to PharmaTimes article](#)

4.3. Merck and Propecia®

[New lawsuit against Merck on side effects of hair loss drug Propecia](#)

A new lawsuit has been filed against Merck on behalf of men who have taken the hair loss drug Propecia. The suit claims that Merck failed to adjust its warnings in the American market even after European regulators enforced stronger warnings about serious side effects, including sexual dysfunction and mental problems.

- ▶ [Link to PharmaTimes article](#)

4.4. Vaccines and preemption law

[US Supreme Court ruling protects Vaccine manufacturers from lawsuits](#)

In a new case which sought to hold a drugmaker liable for the side effects of a childhood vaccine, the Supreme Court voted 6-2 to uphold a 1986 federal law that bars lawsuits against makers of childhood vaccines.

- ▶ [Link to PharmaLive article](#)
- ▶ [Link to The Washington Post article](#)

5. Other relevant Information and Resources

5.1. US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

5.1.1. [FDA provides latest AERS Quarterly Data Files](#)

The FDA has updated the list of files available for download with the extract from the AERS database (Adverse Event Reporting System) for the period from July to September 2010.

- ▶ [Link to AERS Data Files Page](#)

5.1.2. [FDA issues new and updated Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies \(REMS\)](#)

The FDA Amendments Act of 2007 gave FDA the authority to require a Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) from manufacturers to ensure that the benefits of a drug or biological product outweigh its risks.

The list of REMS that have been approved by FDA was last updated on 03-Mar-2010. New REMS have been issued, including for Gralise (gabapentin), Performist (formoterol fumarate), and Plavix (clopidogrel). Several other REMS have been updated.

- ▶ [Link to FDA REMS Page](#)

5.1.3. [New Public Summary of Drug Safety Oversight Board meeting](#)

The public summary for the meeting of the FDA Drug Safety Oversight Board (DSOB) held on 20-Jan-2011 has now been posted.

In addition to the review of Drug Safety Communications posted since the previous meeting, the Board discussed an Update on Operating Room Fires and Alcohol Based Skin Preps, and Safe Injection Practice and Vial Fill Issues.

- ▶ [Link to DSOB Public Summary](#)

5.1.4. New FDA Drug Safety Podcasts

The FDA Drug Safety Podcasts provide emerging safety information about drugs in conjunction with the release of Public Health Advisories and other drug safety issues. Both Podcasts and Transcripts are posted on the FDA website and recent topics include:

- New warnings against use of terbutaline to treat preterm labor
 - Antipsychotic drug labels updated on use during pregnancy and risks in newborns
 - Safety Review update of Abacavir and possible increased risk of heart attack
 - Low magnesium levels with long-term use of Proton Pump Inhibitor drugs (PPIs)
 - Risk of oral clefts in children born to mothers taking Topamax (topiramate)
 - Liver injury warning to be removed from Letairis (ambrisentan) tablets
- ▶ [Link to FDA Page](#)

5.2. European Medicines Agency (EMA)

5.2.1. EMA issues new CHMP Monthly Report

The last Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) Monthly Report has now been published, which includes a summary of the discussions regarding the safety of centrally authorized products and other products subject to a referral procedure. The Report from February includes the following items:

- Update on the review on narcolepsy and the possible association with Pandemrix
- Restrictions on use of Zerit (stavudine)
- Restrictions on use of Tygacil (tigecycline)
- New contraindication for Brinavess (vernakalant)
- Review of buflomedil-containing medicines started
- Review of pholcodine-containing medicines started

The “Meeting Highlights” Page provides links to the related CHMP opinions, press releases and Q&A Documents.

- ▶ [Link to EMA Press Release \(Meeting Highlights\)](#)
- ▶ [Link to EMA Monthly Report](#)

5.2.2. EMA issues new Pharmacovigilance Working Party (PhVWP) Report

The last Monthly Report of the PhVWP has now been published, which provides a summary of the discussions regarding safety issues associated to non-centrally authorised medicinal products. The Report from February includes a discussion of the following topics:

- Montelukast: Reports of psychiatric and behaviour-related adverse reactions
- Paracetamol: No relationship with asthma in children after pregnancy exposure

The Summary Assessment Reports for the safety issues mentioned above are provided in appendix. The cumulative index has been updated accordingly.

- ▶ [Link to EMA Page](#)

5.2.3. EMA interactions with Patients' and Consumers' Organisations

The EMA has published the minutes of the meeting of the Working Party with Patients' and Consumers' Organisations (PCWP) that took place on 30-Nov-2010. In the area of Pharmacovigilance, some discussions were related to Benefit/risk communication. The agenda for the meeting scheduled on 22 and 23-Feb-2011 is also available.

- ▶ [Link to PCWP Meeting Page](#)

5.2.4. [EMA issues Work Programme 2011](#)

The EMA has now published its Work Programme 2011, which describes the objectives of the Agency for this year. In the area of Pharmacovigilance, the main focus will be to prepare for the implementation of the new Pharmacovigilance legislation. The work programme was adopted by the Agency's Management Board in December 2010 and represents the first steps in the implementation of the Agency's five-year vision outlined in the 'Road map to 2015'.

- ▶ [Link to EMA Announcement](#)
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5.3. **UK Agency (MHRA)**

5.3.1. [New issues of MHRA "Drug Safety Update" Bulletin](#)

The February issue of Drug Safety Update (Volume 4, Issue 7) was published on 10-Feb-2011. It includes the following topics:

- Dronedaron: risk of cardiac failure and risk of hepatotoxicity
- Daptomycin: risk of eosinophilic pneumonia
- Lenalidomide: risk of thrombosis and thromboembolism
- Omalizumab: potential risk of arterial thrombotic events

The March issue of Drug Safety Update (Volume 4, Issue 8) was published on 04-Mar-2011. It includes the following topics:

- Modafinil (Provigil): information to support safer use; now restricted to narcolepsy
 - Natalizumab (Tysabri): increased risk of PML after previous immunosuppressant
- Drug Safety Update is now available as a fully searchable online resource.

- ▶ [Link to MHRA Newsletter Page](#)

5.3.2. [MHRA Dear Doctor Letters](#)

A list of letters sent to Healthcare Professionals regarding new safety information and advice on medicines has been posted on the Agency's website. The following letters were sent in February:

- Revlimid (lenalidomide): Association with thromboembolic events
- Provigil (modafinil): New information to support safer use

- ▶ [Link to MHRA Page](#)
-

5.4. **French Agency (Afssaps)**

5.4.1. [List of Products under specific safety monitoring - vaccines](#)

In addition to the list issued in January for drugs, the French Agency has published a specific statement for the vaccines.

- ▶ [Link to Afssaps webpage \(in French\)](#)

5.4.2. [French RMP syntheses in February 2011](#)

The French Agency has published new French RMP syntheses:

- ▶ [Link to the RMP synthesis \(update\) for Isotretinoine \(in French\)](#)
- ▶ [Link to the RMP synthesis for Botulinum toxin \(in French\)](#)

5.4.3. [Dear Doctor Letters published in February 2011 on the Afssaps website](#)

A list of Dear Doctor Letters sent in February 2011 and is now available on the French Agency's website (in French):

- Buflomedil (Fonzylane® and generics): MA suspension and product recall
 - Dextropropoxyphen: MA withdrawal and product recall
 - Haloperidol (Haldol®): withdrawal of intravenous administration due to cardiac risks
 - Daptomycin (Cubicin®): cases of eosinophilic pneumonia
 - diamidopyridine (Aminfampridine®): contraindicated for fatigability with MS
- ▶ [Link to Afssaps Webpage](#)

5.4.4. [New Head of the French Agency](#)

Afssaps has issued a press release to inform that Pr MARANINCHI has been appointed as its new Head.

- ▶ [Link to Afssaps webpage \(in French\)](#)

5.4.5. [Partnerships between Afssaps and Patients associations](#)

The minutes of the plenary meeting with 3 different working groups ("referent", "risk monitoring" and "involvement in Afssaps activities") held on 22-Sep-2010 are now available on the Agency's website.

- ▶ [Link to the Minutes \(in French\)](#)

5.5. **Other Sources**

5.5.1. [Study explores link between marketing practices and public benefit](#)

In a paper published in the American Journal of Public Health, researchers explore how marketing practices influence the risk/benefit profile of a product. Their results suggest that the more a drug is marketed, the more users may not benefit from it while they remain exposed to its potential side effects, which the authors call the "Inverse Benefit Law".

- ▶ [Link to PharmaLive article](#)

5.5.2. [New issue of WHO Pharmaceuticals Newsletter](#)

The last edition of the WHO Pharmaceuticals Newsletter (N°1, 2011) is now available. Prepared in collaboration with the Uppsala Monitoring Center, it includes a section on Regulatory Matters and Safety of Medicines where various issues are discussed, including the decisions regarding dextropropoxyphene, bisphosphonates and the worldwide withdrawal of Sitaxentan because of unpredictable serious liver injury.

This edition also includes a feature article on the latest of the WHO Global Committee of Vaccine Safety.

- ▶ [Link to WHO Pharmaceuticals Newsletter](#)

5.5.3. [UMC Newsletter](#)

The Uppsala Monitoring Center has issued the Issue 5 of its Newsletter, dated March 2011. It reports on the status of a new guideline of Best Practices designed to Optimise the use of the Dictionaries. It also indicates that new versions of the Standardized Drug Groupings (SDGs) are now available.

- ▶ [Link to UMC Newsletter](#)

5.5.4. New issue of Japanese PMDSI Newsletter

The Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Safety Information (PMDSI) Newsletter is issued based on safety information collected by the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) and is intended to promote safer use of pharmaceuticals and medical devices by healthcare providers. The English Summary of the March edition of the Newsletter (Issue N°277) is now available and the contents include:

- Safety Measures for Gemtuzumab Ozogamicin
- Important Safety Information: Imatinib Mesilate, Nilotinib Hydrochloride Hydrate, Sunitinib Malate, and Pilsicainide Hydrochloride Hydrate
- ▶ [Link to MHLW Page](#)

6. Time to Register

EMA/DIA Events

- ▶ [EudraVigilance and Electronic Reporting of ICSRs in the EEA](#)
3 day-training course (see schedule for venues and dates)
- ▶ [EudraVigilance Medicinal Product Dictionary \(EVMPD\) Training Course](#)
1 day-training course in London, UK (see schedule for dates)
- ▶ [1st Information Day on the Development Safety Update Report \(DSUR\) Guidelines ICH E2F](#)
March 23 in London, UK
- ▶ [2nd Information Day on the New ICSR International Standard and ICH E2B/M2](#)
April 05 in London, UK
- ▶ [EudraVigilance Information Day](#)
May 10 in London, UK
- ▶ [Introduction to Pharmacovigilance and Electronic Transmission of ICSRs](#)
June 07 in London, UK

FDA/DIA Events

- ▶ [Cardiovascular Safety in Drug Development: State-of-the-art Assessments](#)
April 13 – 15 in Washington DC, USA
- ▶ [Information Day on the New ICSR International Standard and ICH E2B](#)
May 12 – 13 in Alexandria VA, USA

DSRU Events

- ▶ [Back to Basics in Pharmacovigilance](#)
March 23 – 24 in Southampton, UK
- ▶ [Regulations and Guidelines for Pharmacovigilance](#)
March 31 – April 01 in London, UK
- ▶ [Interpretation of Lab Results in Pharmacovigilance](#)
April 06 – 07 in Southampton, UK
- ▶ [Staying Current in the Constantly Changing Global Regulatory Pharmacovigilance Environment](#)
May 18 – 19 in London, UK
- ▶ [6th Biennial Conference - Signal Detection & Interpretation in Pharmacovigilance](#)
June 08 – 09 in London, UK
- ▶ [Periodic Safety Update Reports \(PSURs\)](#)
June 22 – 23 in Southampton, UK

DIA Events

- ▶ Pre-marketing Clinical Safety & Pharmacovigilance
March 21 – 22 in Horsham PA, USA
- ▶ Post-marketing Drug Safety & Pharmacovigilance
March 23 – 24 in Horsham PA, USA
- ▶ 23rd Annual EuroMeeting
March 28 – 30 in Geneva, Switzerland
- ▶ Webinar: Best Practices for Pharmacoepidemiologic Safety Studies: FDA Draft Guidance
March 31, 01:00 PM to 02:30 PM EDT
- ▶ Pre-Marketing Clinical Safety
April 04 in Basel, Switzerland
- ▶ Cardiovascular Safety in Drug Development: State-of-the-art Assessments
April 13 – 15 in Washington DC, USA
- ▶ Introduction to Signal Detection and Data Mining in Pharmacovigilance
May 09 – 10 in Amsterdam, Netherlands
- ▶ How to Prepare for Pharmacovigilance Audits and Inspections
May 10 – 11 in Amsterdam, Netherlands
- ▶ 5th European Forum for Qualified Person for Pharmacovigilance (QPPV)
May 11 – 12 in London, UK
- ▶ Practical Guide for Pharmacovigilance: Clinical Trials and Post Marketing
May 16 – 18 in Nice, France
- ▶ Benefit/Risk Management
May 19 – 20 in Prague, Czech Republic
- ▶ Risk Management and Safety Communication Strategies
June 18 – 19 in Chicago IL, USA

Other Events

- ▶ Brookwood – Practical guide to post authorisation studies
March 14 in Copenhagen, Denmark
- ▶ SMI – Pharmacovigilance Summit
March 14 – 15 in London, UK
- ▶ Vision Gain – 6th Annual Pharmacovigilance
March 16 – 17 in London, UK
- ▶ Management Forum – Advanced Pharmacovigilance
March 16 – 18 in London, UK
- ▶ IFIS – Pharmacovigilance: role, missions and responsibilities (event in French)
March 17 – 18, and April 08 in Paris, France
- ▶ BARQA – Good Pharmacovigilance Practice
March 22 – 23 in Cambridge, UK
- ▶ PIPA – PV for Small & Medium Sized Companies
March 23 in London, UK
- ▶ Management Forum – An essential guide to Pharmacovigilance
April 04 in London, UK
- ▶ Barnett – Pharmacovigilance Audit
April 04 in San Francisco CA, USA
- ▶ FDLI – 2011 Annual Conference
April 05 – 06 in Washington DC, USA
- ▶ ISPE – Mid-Year Meeting
April 09 – 11 in Florence, Italy
- ▶ Barnett – Signal Detection and Case Processing
April 12 in Philadelphia PA, USA
- ▶ PTI – Adverse Event Reporting & Pharmacovigilance
April 12 – 13 in London, UK
- ▶ PTI – Adverse Event Reporting (Intermediate Level)
April 14 – 15 in London, UK

- ▶ Barnett – Pharmacovigilance
April 14 – 15 in Philadelphia PA, USA
- ▶ Barnett – Drug Safety and Pharmacovigilance
April 14 – 15 in San Francisco CA, USA
- ▶ Management Forum – Risk Management and the Pharmacovigilance Plan
April 15 in London, UK
- ▶ Barnett – Adverse Events Managing and Reporting for Pharmaceuticals
May 10 – 11 in Boston MA, USA
- ▶ 7th Annual Post-Approval Summit
May 10 – 11 in Boston MA, USA
- ▶ Marcus Evans – Global Pharmacovigilance and Adverse Event Reporting Forum
May 11 – 13 in Philadelphia PA, USA
- ▶ PTI – Introduction to Epidemiology for Safety and Risk Management
May 16 – 17 in London, UK
- ▶ Management Forum –Pharmacovigilance for Support Staff
May 17 in London, UK
- ▶ Barnett Webinar – Drug Safety and Pharmacovigilance
May 19, 01:00 PM to 02:30 PM Eastern
- ▶ Barnett Webinar – Preparing for a Safety Inspection
May 24, 01:00 PM to 02:30 PM Eastern
- ▶ ICR – GCP Principles in Pharmacovigilance
June 07 in Bourne End, UK
- ▶ IFIS – Pharmacovigilance for assistants and secretaries (event in French)
June 16 – 17 in Paris, France

7. About the Authors



SUNNIKAN Consulting is offering a wide range of services related to Risk, Quality and Process Management Systems for Pharmaceutical Industry since 1996. SUNNIKAN Consulting's areas of expertise cover Clinical Research, Regulatory Affairs, Pharmacovigilance, Computerized Systems, and more.

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PV Focus

PV Focus is a small specialty company established since December 2004. Based in France, PV Focus has successfully centered its business on the provision of Pharmacovigilance Audits and related services to the Pharmaceutical Industry.

Due to its experience of both Audits and Regulatory Inspections at a global level, PV Focus is a partner of choice to assist with the performance of Pharmacovigilance System Audits and can also support the preparation of Regulatory Inspections.

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