

Beste collega's,

Op woensdagochtend 7 oktober vond een bijeenkomst plaats van de *EU Executive Steering Group (SG) on shortages of medicines caused by major events*.

Hieronder volgt een terugkoppeling van hetgeen daar is besproken.

Bijeenkomst 7 oktober

In de bijeenkomst van 7 oktober werden de volgende punten besproken:

Demand forecast for ICU medicines in the EU/EEA in the context of COVID-19

- Pilot to establish demand forecast launched on 28 September. Will run for three weeks and end on 16 October 2020.
 - Pilot restricted to 5 medicines (ceftriaxone, fentanyl, propofol, rocuronium bromide and heparin).
 - Forecast to cover 6 month period (November 2020 to April 2021). Minimum data to be provided: total demand forecast, COVID-19 patient needs, non-COVID-19 patient needs.

Challenges to access to COVID-19 vaccines

- Immensely important to maintain regulatory process based on science and steer clear from direct political influencing.
 - EC worries that any potential emergency approval by individual member states will undermine surveillance and safety.
 - EMA warns for risk of possible quick authorization vaccine in UK and pressure that may arise from this on EU.
 - With expected arrival of COVID-19 medicinal products and vaccines, network capacity in the coming years with regard to post-approval safety (surveillance/pharmacovigilance) will have to be strengthened. Both EMA and national agencies will need to expand staff and expertise in these areas.
 - EU data network should be established to foster technological solutions to pool EU data-analyses with regard to COVID-19 vaccine surveillance.
 - EMA will send out survey on surveillance capacity in member states.
 - Several member states inform about shortages of regular flu-vaccines due to high demand. Mitigating communication to ease pressure is warranted.
 - EC urges member states repeatedly not to stockpile at national level as it puts availability of medicines and vaccines under pressure.

Impact of COVID-19 on inspections

- Based on EMA survey results EU SG discusses impact of COVID-19 on inspections.

- Majority inspectorates indicate to have resumed on-site inspections on national territory.
- Some inspectorates appear to be close to normal routine inspection planning, others indicate that they limit themselves to COVID-19 priorities.
- Third country inspections are uniformly on hold – inspectorates are using distant assessments.
- Distant assessments to verify GMP compliance, international collaboration with trusted authorities and pro-active engagement with developers are crucial to mitigate COVID-19 restrictions for verification of GMP compliance.
- Compliance with GMP is not waived. Early engagement between EMA, NCAs and developers is key.
- Large scale COVID-19 vaccine and medicine production in combination with upheld third country inspections presents potential oversight risk.

Bijgevoegd vinden jullie ter info:

- Vergaderagenda met aantekeningen
- Belangrijkste onderliggende vergaderstukken – waaronder ook twee presentaties van zijde industrie over respectievelijk vraag naar COVID-19 producten

De volgende bijeenkomst vindt plaats op 21 oktober 2020.

Voor meer informatie weten jullie mij te bereiken.

Met vriendelijke groet,

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GOOD MEDICINES USED BETTER