



2019 Information Awards

Pharmaceutical companies hold a wealth of useful information on the drugs they market, from the moment work begins on bringing a drug to the market until its withdrawal. They have a responsibility to share this information, in part to help better determine the drugs' harm-benefit balance and to help protect patients from certain harms.

Prescrire systematically asks pharmaceutical companies for clinical data and packaging information for ex-ample, in order to collate and compare them with data obtained through the systematic literature search conducted by the Editorial Staff (including drug regulatory agencies' assessment reports, administrative and regulatory information, and packaging).

The Information Awards are based on the quality of the information provided to *Prescrire* by the companies whose products we examined in 2019 in the New Products section of our French edition. They reveal the importance each company attaches to informing health professionals about their drugs, and the reluctance displayed by some.

It is perfectly possible for companies to share information about their drugs... We requested information from 112 pharmaceutical companies in 2019. Six of them chose to be open, and demonstrated this by providing detailed, relevant information in response to *Prescrire's* requests. These companies earned a place on the Honours List. One of these six companies provided us with particularly useful and detailed information without delay, and was therefore rated as "Outstanding".

... but many companies are unwilling. Other drug companies failed to respond to some or all of *Prescrire's* requests, or provided only limited data. Some of them delayed their response and provided no usable information. Some omitted the most important or sensitive data. Red Cards are given to highlight persistent deficiencies in the provision of information. This was the case for 14 of the 112 pharmaceutical companies we approached in 2019.

Evaluation data announced, but not shared with *Prescrire*. Among the remaining 92 pharmaceutical companies we approached, AstraZeneca and Lilly each announced via press release and through other channels that they had new favourable evaluation data on one of their drugs: *osimertinib* (Tagrisso®) in certain types of metastatic or inoperable lung cancer, and *abemaciclib* (Verzenio®) in certain types of breast cancer. But they did not share the detailed quantitative data with *Prescrire* and our subscribers.

Secrecy is still well entrenched in 2019. As in previous years, we found that few pharmaceutical companies we dealt with in 2019 were committed to providing health professionals with practical information about their drugs by sharing the data in their possession with *Prescrire*. They often preferred to eschew transparency and keep important detailed documentation to themselves. This throws into sharp relief the responsible attitude of the

few pharmaceutical companies willing to help improve medication quality and safety. Surely patients and health-care professionals have the right to be informed of all the data obtained on a given drug, in order to decide, with full knowledge of the facts, whether to use it or not?

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6 Companies on the Honours List

Outstanding:

– EG Labo

Followed by:

- Arrow Génériques
- Bioprojet Pharma
- Bouchara Recordati
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Vectans Pharma



14 Red Cards

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| – Alk Abelló | – Menarini |
| – Bayer Healthcare | – MSD |
| – Biogaran | – Otsuka Pharmaceutical |
| – Genévrier | – Sandoz |
| – GMP Orphan | – Takeda |
| – Janssen Cilag | – Teva Santé |
| – Kyowa Kirin Pharma | – Vifor |

How we rate the quality of the information provided by pharmaceutical companies:



Detailed information including unpublished data and packaging items.



Information limited to published administrative data or packaging items.



Minimal information, mainly administrative and packaging items.



No information.