



## A holiday trip ends in hospital

Marcelle and René are on a package tour to Thailand. But they have forgotten to bring their medicines with them, including their “blood pressure” drugs.

It’s not a problem for Marcelle. She knows the international nonproprietary name (INN) of the betablocker she has to take every day: metoprolol. The doctor in Bangkok has no trouble prescribing the right treatment for her.

René only remembers the trade name of his medication, Avlocardyl<sup>o</sup>, and the Bangkok doctor has never heard of it. The same drug is marketed in Thailand, but under a dozen different trade names, none of which resemble Avlocardyl<sup>o</sup>.

The doctor prescribes another antihypertensive drug, but René reacts badly to it and has to be hospitalised. If only he’d known the INN...

### **The INN: one drug, one name, everywhere in the world**

The INN (International Nonproprietary Name) is quite simply a drug’s real name. Created by the World Health Organization (WHO), the INN system is used throughout the world. It allows healthcare professionals and patients to identify a drug precisely and with confidence, and to avoid potentially serious adverse effects due to confusion between drugs. With the INN, everything is simpler, clearer and more precise.

**Ask your doctor and pharmacist to explain the INN system**



**"The INN campaign: a drug’s real name"**: explanations and other materials produced by the Medicines in Europe Forum are available from the following websites:

- Association Mieux Prescrire ([www.prescrire.org](http://www.prescrire.org))
- Fédération Nationale de la Mutualité Française ([www.mutualite.fr](http://www.mutualite.fr))
- Union Fédérale des Consommateurs Que Choisir ([www.quechoisir.org](http://www.quechoisir.org))

The INN, a drug’s real name: leaflets are available to download for free at [www.prescrire.org](http://www.prescrire.org), along with explanations of the reasons for using the INN and the (rare) drawbacks.