

2017 Prescrire Information Awards

The Information Awards focus on the information provided to Prescrire by the companies whose products we examined in the New Products section of our French edition in 2017.

HONOURS LIST

(in alphabetical order)

Outstanding:

- EG Labo

Followed by:

- Advicenne
- Arrow Génériques
- Bioprojet Pharma
- Delbert
- Medac
- Mylan
- Nordic Pharma

RED CARDS

(in alphabetical order)

- Bristol-Myers Squibb
- Effik
- Génévrier
- Genzyme (Sanofi Group)
- Janssen Cilag
- Kyowa Kirin Pharma
- Menarini
- MSD
- Pfizer
- Swedish Orphan Biovitrum
- The Medicines Company
- UCB Pharma

Quality of information from pharmaceutical companies

We use a 4-point scale to rate the quality of the information provided by companies in response to our systematic requests



Company provided detailed information including unpublished data and packaging items.



Company provided information limited to published regulatory data or packaging information.



Company provided minimal information, mainly regulatory and packaging information.



Company provided no information.

Pharmaceutical companies hold a wealth of information on the drugs they market or withdraw from the market. They have a responsibility to share this information, in part to help ensure that their drugs are used appropriately and to protect patients from adverse effects.

As part of its systematic literature search, *Prescrire* requests clinical data, packaging, and administrative and regulatory information from pharmaceutical companies, then compares them with information obtained from other sources.

Prescrire's Information Awards reflect how each company assumes its responsibility to share information.

Information requested from 101 companies in 2017. In 2017, we requested information from 101 pharmaceutical companies. Some companies chose to be transparent and demonstrated this by providing detailed, relevant information in response to *Prescrire's* requests. These companies are placed on the Honours List (8 out of the 101 companies approached for information in 2017). Those rated as “Outstanding” provided us with particularly useful and detailed information without delay and sometimes without being asked (1 company, out of the 101 approached).

Other drug companies failed to respond to some or all of our requests for information, or provided only limited data. Some of them delayed their response and failed to provide usable information. Some omitted the most important or sensitive data. Red Cards are given to highlight persistent deficiencies in the provision of information by some drug companies (12 of the 101 approached).

Some of the other 81 companies provided a bare minimum of information, sending us only limited documentation, sometimes after several reminders. They avoided a Red Card by simply going through the motions of sharing information.

Still no improvement in 2017. The years go by, yet nothing changes. On the whole, pharmaceutical companies provide *Prescrire* with a lot of information, some new and some that we have already obtained elsewhere. But as in previous years, few pharmaceutical companies embraced transparency in 2017 by agreeing to share all the data they hold with the health professionals who subscribe to *Prescrire*.

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