

## **2024 Prescrire Information Awards**

Prescrire's annual Information Awards are based on the quality of the documentation and information provided by pharmaceutical

companies in response to requests by Prescrire's Editorial Staff. We use this documentation when preparing the articles published in the Marketing Authorisations section of our French edition. Prescrire's Information Awards reflect the level of transparency that companies have shown towards Prescrire over the year.

What information does Prescrire request from pharmaceutical companies, and why? In addition to the information Prescrire gathers through a systematic search of various resources, such as health authorities and the scientific literature, we systematically ask pharmaceutical companies to send us data on their products, from the drug development stage through to post-marketing surveillance.

We primarily ask for data on efficacy and adverse effects, packaging items for the products in question, the conditions and restrictions under which patients can access the drugs, their reimbursement status in France, their availability and, where applicable, the reasons for market withdrawal.

The purpose of these requests is to provide healthcare professionals with information about drugs that is as up-to-date and comprehensive as possible, in order to promote the correct use of drugs and help ensure patient safety.

As in previous years, more companies received a Red Card than made the Honours List. 7 of the 91 pharmaceutical companies from which Prescrire requested information earned a place on the 2024 Information Awards Honours List, for providing detailed documentation that addressed every aspect of our requests. Two of them, Ever Pharma and Rhythm Pharmaceuticals, were rated as "Outstanding" for their rapid response times and the provision of particularly useful information and documents that were not publicly available, such as:

- A clinical study report, providing details about the trial protocol and results;
- Documentation submitted to the French National Authority for Health (HAS) to request eligibility for reimbursement through the national health insurance system or approval for use in hospitals;
- Excerpts from the marketing authorisation application;
- Information about supply and availability;
- Packaging items.

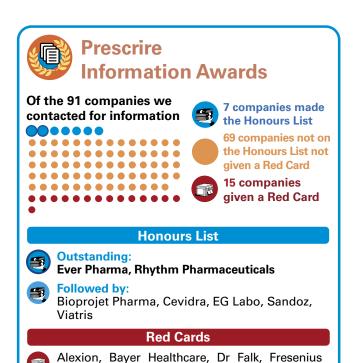
Conversely, 15 pharmaceutical companies chose not to provide Prescrire with information or documentation. These companies received an information "Red Card" (see figure). Some of them made it clear that they had no intention of fulfilling our request, by telling us directly or referring us to the health authorities.

Sending unpublished data to Prescrire. Prescrire analyses all the information that pharmaceutical companies send us. The most useful elements are those that are not publicly available elsewhere, such as the clinical data and information not reported in the public assessment reports published by health authorities, and all the very recent data held initially by pharmaceutical companies. Clinical evaluation data are not confidential. Pharmaceutical companies have a duty to provide medical information, and this includes a responsibility to share clinical data.

Still too little transparency in 2024. When pharmaceutical companies refuse to share the useful data in their possession with Prescrire – data that cannot be obtained elsewhere – they do a disservice to healthcare professionals and patients. Unfortunately, as in previous years, this was the case with many companies in 2024. Let us honour those who embrace transparency and help to better inform the healthcare professionals who subscribe to *Prescrire*, for the benefit of patients.

@Prescrire

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Kabi, Gedeon Richter, Genzyme Biotherapeutics,

Grifols, Incyte Biosciences, Intsel Chimos,

Janssen Cilag, Menarini, MSD, Sanofi Aventis,

Teva Santé, Zentiva