SUBSCRIBE NOW
to Prescrire International

PI 113

Subscription rates	1 year	2 years
Individual rate (1)	€130 (174 USD)	€240 (322 USD)
Student rate (1)	€60 (80 USD)	€112 (150 USD)
Institutional rate (1)(2)	€325 (436 USD)	€630 (844 USD)

1- For Solidarity subscription rates see the preceding page.
2- Commercial companies and institutions.

☐ **Yes, I would like to subscribe to *Prescrire International***

☐ **Please send me a free sample issue of the French journal *Prescrire***

Title: ☐ Mr ☐ Ms

Last Name: .....

First Name: .....

Address (1): .....

.....

Zip: ..... City: .....

Country: .....

Tel: .....

Fax: .....

E-Mail (must be provided): .....

.....

Occupation: .....

working in the community, hospital, university, industry, other (please circle)

1- Give the format of the address as it is used in your country.

☐ I enclose a cheque for € .....
or USD .....

☐ I pay € _____ .....
or USD _____ .....
by Credit card

- ☐ Visa
- ☐ Eurocard/Mastercard
- ☐ American Express

Card number: |_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|_|

Expiry date: |_|_|/|_|_|

Signature:

Postage and handling charges are included in the quoted prices. Subscribers outside the European Union who are subject to value added tax (VAT) may pay the ex-tax cost: divide the full cost by 1.021. EU subscribers subject to VAT must provide us with their VAT code number.

Send your order with payment to:

Prescrire International
83 bd Voltaire - 75558 PARIS CEDEX 11 - FRANCE
Fax: + 33 1 49237648
e-mail: international@prescrire.org
website: www.english.prescrire.org

Pharmacovigilance in Europe: some progress, but a missed opportunity

On 29 November 2010 the Council of the European Union approved the new European pharmacovigilance regulation and directive. Below are some points contained in a joint press release by Prescrire and its partners in a campaign to improve the originally dangerous proposals.

The European Commission's original proposals were greatly improved. Thanks to the mobilisation of civil society and the numerous amendments adopted by the European Parliament's Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI), improvements included:
– making clear that risk management systems must not be used as a pretext for granting premature marketing authorisations;
– giving patients in all Member States the right to report adverse drug reactions;
– having patients report adverse drug reactions to health authorities, rather than to pharmaceutical companies;
– granting public access to the agendas and detailed minutes of meetings of European Medicines Agency (EMA) committees.

However, Member States will no longer be required to provide public funding for pharmacovigilance systems, which will jeopardise the independence of pharmacovigilance systems.

A missed opportunity. If patient safety is to be truly strengthened in the EU, the following actions would be required:
– regulatory authorities should only grant authorisation for drugs that have been shown to provide a tangible therapeutic advantage for patients;
– a system should be set up to strongly encourage health professionals to systematically report the adverse effects they observe;
– drug regulatory authorities should be made more independent.

Dangerous medicines should not be allowed to continue harming patients and the proliferation of pharmacovigilance scandals (Vioxx°, Accomplia°, Avandia°, Mediator° etc.) must be stopped. We therefore call on the European Commission to rapidly propose more ambitious measures in order to reinforce patient safety.

©Prescrire

Full press release and more information available online:
www.english.prescrire.org

Downloaded from english.prescrire.org on 30/10/2026
Copyright(c)Prescrire. For personal use only.