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European Medicines Agency

Languages on this website

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) makes its most important information on medicines and on its work available in all official European Union (EU) languages on this website. This language policy is in line with EMA's commitment to provide unbiased information to patients, healthcare professionals and all European Union (EU) citizens on the medicines it evaluates. This commitment lies at the heart of EMA's public health mission.

EMA's official **working language** is English. The Agency therefore carries out its business in English and makes all of its content available in English.

EMA also makes the information that is of greatest impact and relevance for general audiences available in all official European Union (EU) languages. This includes:

- information related to the protection of public health, such as overviews of the medicines that EMA evaluates;
- general information on EMA's work and activities, including its frequently asked questions;
- subtitles or voice-overs to its videos and other audiovisual material that are available via this website and its YouTube channel.

EU citizens can also interact with EMA in any official EU language in queries and public consultations.

EMA language policy

EMA's **language policy** sets out the ways in which it works in English and other official EU languages.

It is available in all official EU languages, plus Icelandic and Norwegian: Multilingual Policy (europa.eu)

The policy explains how EMA considers the impact of and relevance for stakeholders and public health protection in its decisions regarding **translation**. It prioritises the information aimed at patients and healthcare professionals.

EMA sometimes makes information available in English before other EU languages, while translation is ongoing. It does this when necessary to avoid delays in publication of the information.

On this website, EMA makes technical information available in English. This is aimed primarily at the **pharmaceutical industry**.

English is the language that this industry operates in globally. It is also the language in which standard terminology is available and used internationally, including by international authorities such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines (EDQM) of the Council of Europe.

The Agency uses English in this setting to reduce the risk of misunderstanding, ambiguity and potentially important errors that translation might introduce.

Information on medicines that EMA evaluates

EMA makes information related to its scientific assessments of **individual medicines** available in all official EU languages:

- Overviews of **authorised human medicines**: these explain what the medicine is and why it was authorised
- Questions and answers on **medicines refused authorisation**: these explain why the medicine was not suitable for authorisation
- Questions and answers on **withdrawn applications**: these explain why a company withdrew its application for authorisation of a medicine
- **Product information** for authorised medicines: these include the package leaflet for patients and pet owners, and are also available in Icelandic and Norwegian
- Information on **major reviews of medicines** (known as referrals): these explain EMA's recommendations about issues, such as concerns over safety

More information:

- What we publish on medicines and when (only in English)

Information on EMA's work and activities

EMA publishes general information on what it does, how it works, its responsibilities and its people in all official EU languages:

- What we do
- Authorisation of medicines
- How EMA evaluates medicines for human use
- Who we are
- Management Board
- How we work
- European medicines regulatory network
- Handling competing interests
- Frequently asked questions (FAQs)
- Leaflets on topics such as reporting suspected side effects of medicines

Information about EMA and frequently asked questions is available in all official EU languages:

- About us
- FAQs as published on the web

Interacting with EMA

EU citizens can Send a question to the European Medicines Agency on this website in any official EU language. EMA will reply in the same language.

The Agency accepts contributions to **public consultations** in any official EU language.

Whenever possible, EMA makes public consultation documents available in official EU languages.

More information:

- Send a question to the European Medicines Agency
- Open consultations

Related content

- About us
- Frequently asked questions

External links

- European Ombudsman: The use of official EU languages when communicating with the public - Practical recommendations for the EU administration