



European Commission

Enterprise & Industry DG

# Information to Patients

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# A Brief History of Information to Patients in EU

- Traditional focus on authorised medicinal information
- Increasing Commission interest in health information (Public Health Programme & e-health)
- Growing information gap – patient demand & ease of access to unregulated info (internet)
- G10 Recommendation – Public Private Partnership
- Pharmaceutical Forum – take forward G10
- Review of information to patients (Article 88a of 2001/83/EC)



# Why Europe?

Commission responsible for medicinal information → leaflets, labels & SPCs

- Supports safe & effective use of medicines

Provide an infrastructure

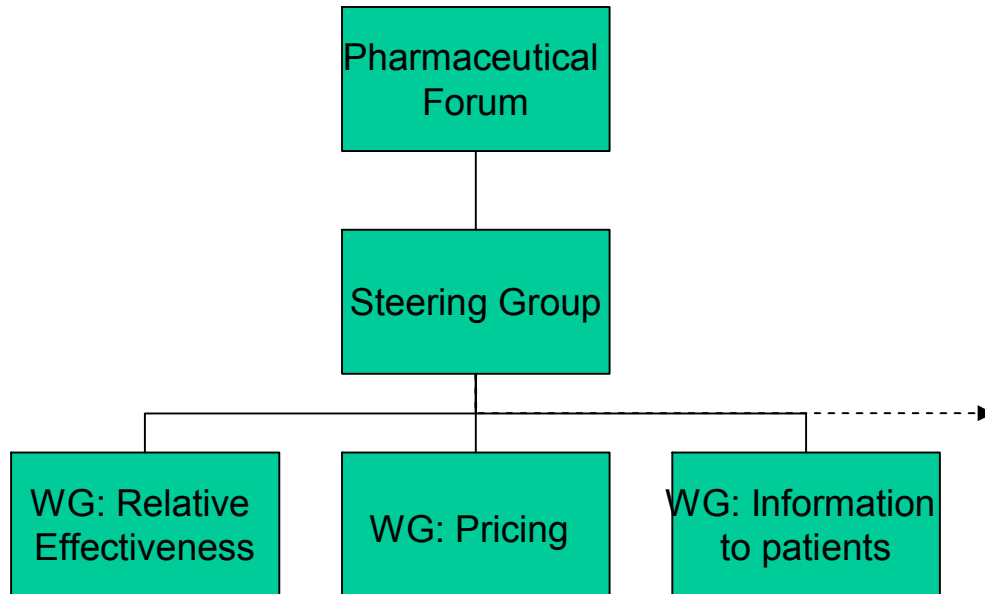
- Quality criteria for health-related websites
- Health Portal (<http://health.europa.eu>) – launched May 06
- EudraPharm Database – launched December 06

Provide a platform for debate/co-operation for all key stakeholders

# Patient Information – Core Assumptions

- Health professional / patient dialogue must remain central to health information
- All stakeholders have a role in providing information
- EU role is not to restrict info. but help access to quality information
- All EU citizens should have equal access to quality information
- No DTC Advertising

# Pharmaceutical Forum



## Principles

- Participation of all EU Member States
- Highest level political participation + technical preparation
- Process facilitated by Commission



# Information to Patients – Work Programme

- Model information package on a disease - diabetes
- Quality Principles
- Good practice on information provision in health care settings
- Existing tools on access to information
- Summary of research on information needs for patient groups

# Model Package of Information on a disease - Diabetes

- Chronic condition requiring effective self-management
- range of treatment options including national & EU authorised medicines
- Major public health concern



## Value of this approach

- Test the value of a partnership
- Designed to supplement (not replace) existing national initiatives
- “Work in progress”



# Consultation

## Objectives:

- Seek views on specific issues
- Bring the work to a wider audience
- Ended on 4 May
- Website:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/phabiocom/comp\\_pf\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/phabiocom/comp_pf_en.htm)



# Next steps

- Review responses to consultation
- Develop Progress Report
- Pharmaceutical Forum – 26 June
- Final recommendations to Forum  
in 2008

# Art. 88a Report to Parliament & Council

- Review state of info. to patients
- Focus on the Internet
- Take account of Forum discussions

- Consultation:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/pharmaceuticals/pharmacos/docs/doc2007/2007\\_04/draft\\_infopatients2007\\_04.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/pharmaceuticals/pharmacos/docs/doc2007/2007_04/draft_infopatients2007_04.pdf)

- Consultation ends – 30 June 2007



# Patient Involvement

- EFA
- European Patients' Forum
- Consultations
- Commission websites
- Direct contact, but strength in numbers!

# Thank You

