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WEEKLY EU HEALTHCARE NEWS UPDATE

30 MAY – 3 JUNE 2022

EU REACHED AN AGREEMENT WITH MODERNA TO ADAPT VACCINE DELIVERY SCHEDULES TO THE NEEDS OF MEMBER STATES

According to the document signed on Thursday (2 June), the vaccine developer Moderna will postpone the delivery of some doses initially planned for the second quarter of 2022 to later in the year.

Additionally, if an adapted vaccine receives an EU marketing authorisation after the positive examination of the European Medicines Agency, a part of the doses scheduled for April, May and June may be delivered as booster vaccines adapted to the current coronavirus variants from September and during the autumn and winter months of the year 2022.

At the same time, the deal allows the delivery of vaccines already adapted for future variants (after EMA's approval) so that 27 Member States will be able to respond to possible epidemiological developments later this year and continue to provide support for the partner countries around the world.

The EU's agreement with Moderna is a part of an ongoing process in which the EU Commission, together with the Member States, is closely engaged with the vaccine suppliers to address the evolving needs linked to the future development of the pandemic. It is expected that the Commission will finalise more of such agreements in the coming months.

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_3438

EUROPEAN COMMISSION TAKES A STEP FORWARD ON THE 'RIGHT TO BE FORGOTTEN' FOR CANCER SUFFERERS

On Monday, 30 May, the European Commission presented its latest study on the right to be forgotten for access to financial services for people who have been affected by cancer across the 27 EU Member States.

The study has been conducted within the framework of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, presented in 2021. It focuses on the planned initiatives to 'improve the quality of life of cancer survivors and carers while providing an overview of the conditions of access to credit and insurance services for people who have struggled with cancer.

Also, on Monday, the EU Health Commissioner Stella Kyriakides announced the launch of an EU-wide process to address the "right to be forgotten" in all Member States, referring to the commitment made under the EU's Beating Cancer Plan. It aims to facilitate seeking a common ground with governments, the health sector, the patient community and financial institutions and help the insurers and banks in the assessment of creditworthiness and insurance risk of cancer survivors. As a second step, the Commission will start more extensive work to collect additional evidence and insights in view of establishing the first-ever EU Code of Conduct in history.

Source: https://portal.ieu-monitoring.com/editorial/eu-study-sees-need-to-improve-access-of-cancer-patients-to-financial-products/378570?utm_source=ieu-portal

EUROPEAN CONSUMER ORGANISATION (BEUC): VOLUNTARY INITIATIVES ARE NOT SUFFICIENT TO ENSURE EQUAL ACCESS TO MEDICINES

In an interview for EURACTIV, Ancel·la Santos Quintano from the European Consumer Organisation (BEUC) argued that the revision of the EU pharmaceutical strategy should contain action aiming to ensure equality in access to medicines. As a result, there would be no need to rely on voluntary industry initiatives to tackle the issue.

The voluntary initiative was announced by the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA) in April this year. It consists of a commitment to file reimbursement and pricing applications no later than two years following the EU market authorisation. At the same time, the EFPIA announced the launch of a European Access Portal in which marketing authorisation holders (MAH) can submit information concerning the timing, pricing and reimbursement application in all 27 EU Member States.

While BEUC does welcome this initiative of the industry, however, it argues that the voluntary nature means „companies could still unjustifiably delay the filing of their applications and decide based on their commercial interests that they do not want to file in a particular market, potentially leaving a treatment gap.”

Source: <https://www.euractiv.com/section/health-consumers/news/voluntary-initiatives-not-enough-to-ensure-equal-access-to-medicines/>

Thank you for your attention!

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