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WEEKLY EU HEALTHCARE NEWS UPDATE

20 JANUARY – 27 JANUARY 2023

EUROPEAN CANCER IMAGING INITIATIVE

On 23 January the European Commission (EC) launched the European Cancer Imaging Initiative to support healthcare providers, research institutes, and innovators in making the best use of innovative data-driven solutions for cancer treatment and care.

This initiative, a flagship action under Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, will enable the creation of a digital infrastructure uniting resources and databases of cancer imaging data all over the EU while ensuring adherence to ethical standards, security, and protection of personal data. Furthermore, the facilitation of the development of data-driven solutions will allow doctors to make more precise and faster clinical decisions, diagnostics, treatments, and predictive medicine, for the benefit of cancer patients.

A cross-border and secure infrastructure that will preserve privacy will speed up innovation in medical research. It will, for instance, be possible to train new technologies that use artificial intelligence on a large dataset, which is standardized and fully compliant with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). This will positively affect the fast development of innovative tools, which can offer rapid cancer diagnosis and improve personalized care.

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/MEX_23_322

EMA UPDATES ON SHORTAGES OF ANTIBIOTICS

On 26 January, the European Medicines Agency's (EMA) Executive Steering Group on Shortages and Safety of Medicinal Products (MSSG) held a meeting to discuss the progress achieved and to agree on the upcoming steps in the coordinated response to the latest shortages of antibiotic medicines containing amoxicillin (alone and in combination with clavulanic acid) in the EU. Representatives of EMA, the European Commission, and the Heads of Medicines Agencies (HMA) form the MSSG group.

A recent spike in respiratory infections has driven an increase in demand for amoxicillin which combined with other issues including manufacturing delays and shortages in many EU Member States. The MSSG and its working party, the SPOC working party, which is responsible for monitoring and reporting events that could affect the supply of medicines in the EU, have been closely watching the situation since November 2022 and have been engaging with key players in the supply chain of amoxicillin to take mitigating measures.

As a result of the abovementioned actions, the MSSG noted some progress since the beginning of the monitoring. The MSSG also discussed the current amoxicillin shortages. The MSSG concluded that at present this shortage situation is not considered to be a major event and that current mitigating measures are improving the supply situation in the short term.

Source: <https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/news/ema-update-shortages-antibiotics-eu>

EU/WHO SUPPORT UKRAINE'S EMERGENCY HEALTH NEEDS

On 23 January 2023, WHO donated 26 ambulances to the Ministry of Health of Ukraine to assist the war-torn country in providing emergency medical care to patients during the war. The delivery was made possible with European Union (EU) funding.

Dr. Jarno Habicht, WHO Representative in Ukraine explains that WHO has been supporting Ukraine throughout the war and delivering life-saving medical supplies and equipment closely working with the Ministry of Health of Ukraine and other partners. “These ambulances will help save lives and bring vital care to people in Ukraine amid the war.”

The donation includes 6 patient transport ambulances and 20 mobile intensive care unit ambulances, equipped with oxygen tanks, defibrillators, transport ventilators, and other medical devices, that will enable the transportation of injured patients.

Since 24 February 2022, more than 30 ambulances have been donated to the Ministry of Health by WHO and its partners. More ambulances are planned to be sent to Ukraine later this year. Overall, more than 2000 metric tonnes of life-saving medical supplies were donated by WHO to Ukraine since the war started.

Source: <https://www.who.int/europe/news/item/23-01-2023-who-donates-ambulances-to-ukraine-to-support-emergency-health-needs-amid-the-war>

Thank you for your attention!

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