

## **Contribute to better medicinal product safety by reporting suspected adverse drug reactions!**

### **The National Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices (NAMMD) is launching the second social media campaign for the general public**

As part of the second EU-wide public awareness campaign, from 20 to 24 November, the NAMMD is running a social media campaign, this year focussing on promotion of recognition and reporting of suspected adverse reactions from over-the-counter medicines (OTC).

While medicines are safe and effective, adverse reactions can occur, even with over-the-counter medicines. However, the important thing is to understand the risks associated with all medicines and communicate them to healthcare professionals and patients.

There is a wide range of potential adverse reactions, from mere head or stomach aches to flu-like symptoms or just 'feeling under the weather'. Reporting them can be useful for regulators to monitor medicines on the market and take appropriate action. Suspected adverse reactions are also helpful to report in cases of multiple drug or chronic use or resulting from interactions with food or other products.

Although competent authorities such as the NAMMD rely on the reporting of suspected adverse reactions to make sure medicines on the market are acceptably safe, all reporting systems unfortunately suffer from under reporting, which is why the current campaign targets to both raise awareness and help strengthen the system.

According to Dr. Nicolae Fotin, President of the National Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices,

"The most important goal of our work is to provide assurance to patients that the medicines they use meet high quality and efficacy standards and can be used safely.

The campaign we are currently running seeks to assist the general public, patients and healthcare professionals to report on possible adverse drug reactions and reassure them on the importance of their reports.

Every time you take a medicine, make sure you do what is right for you. It is important to remember to read the Patient leaflet, which helps you find out about known adverse reactions - never take more than advised by your doctor or the packaging. If in doubt, ask a healthcare professional!

You can contribute to improve drug safety by easily and promptly reporting suspected adverse reactions using the national reporting system, available on the NAMMD website, at <https://www.anm.ro/medicamente-de-uz-uman/farmacovigilenta/raporteaza-o-reactie-adversa/>."

The public awareness campaign has been a component of the Strengthening Collaboration for Operating Pharmacovigilance in Europe – SCOPE Project, and one of its objectives has been improved awareness of national suspected drug reaction reporting systems.

This year's campaign has received support from the WHO Uppsala Monitoring Centre.

*Note:*

- 1. National reporting systems for the collection of suspected adverse drug reactions are early warning systems meant to help identify numerous important safety issues, many of which had not been recognised as related to a particular medicine until reports were received by national competent authorities.*
- 2. The NAMMD is the national competent authorities in the field of medicinal products for human use.*
- 3. The SCOPE Joint Action project ([scopejointaction.eu](http://scopejointaction.eu)) social media campaign is being taken forward through the Heads of Medicines Agencies Working Group for Communications Professionals.*
- 4. The Uppsala Monitoring Centre was established in 1978 to support the World Health Organisation Programme for International Drug Monitoring.*