



# **3-year Report on European Union Pharmacovigilance Activities**

## **Pharmaceutical Committee**

**18 October 2016**

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**Directorate General for Health and Food Safety**  
**Unit B5 - Medicines: policy, authorisation and monitoring**



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# EU pharmaceutical legislation

**Directive  
2001/83/EC**

**The core legislation governing the regulation of medicines in EU:**

- **Title IX – Pharmacovigilance**
  - Article 108b – report on performance of pharmacovigilance tasks by Member States

**Regulation  
(EC) No  
726/2004**

**Sets the procedures for the authorisation and supervision of medicinal products at EU level and establishes the European Medicines Agency:**

- **Title II - Chapter 3 – Pharmacovigilance**
  - Article 29 - report on performance of pharmacovigilance tasks by Member States

# Commission report

- Report from the Commission (COM(2016) 498 final) and accompanying staff working document (SWD(2016) 284 final) adopted 8 August 2016
- Includes pharmacovigilance activities of Member States and the European Medicines Agency
- Mainly covering July 2012 – December 2014





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# European Union Pharmacovigilance - a network approach

- Member States
- European Medicines Agency (including the Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC))
- European Commission

## The European Union





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# Functioning of the system

## TRIGGERS OF THE DECISION MAKING PROCEDURE

- Monitoring adverse drug reactions (ADRs)
- Signal of a new adverse event, ADR
- Periodic safety update reports (PSUR)
- Specific procedure: referrals
- Oversight of post-authorisation obligations

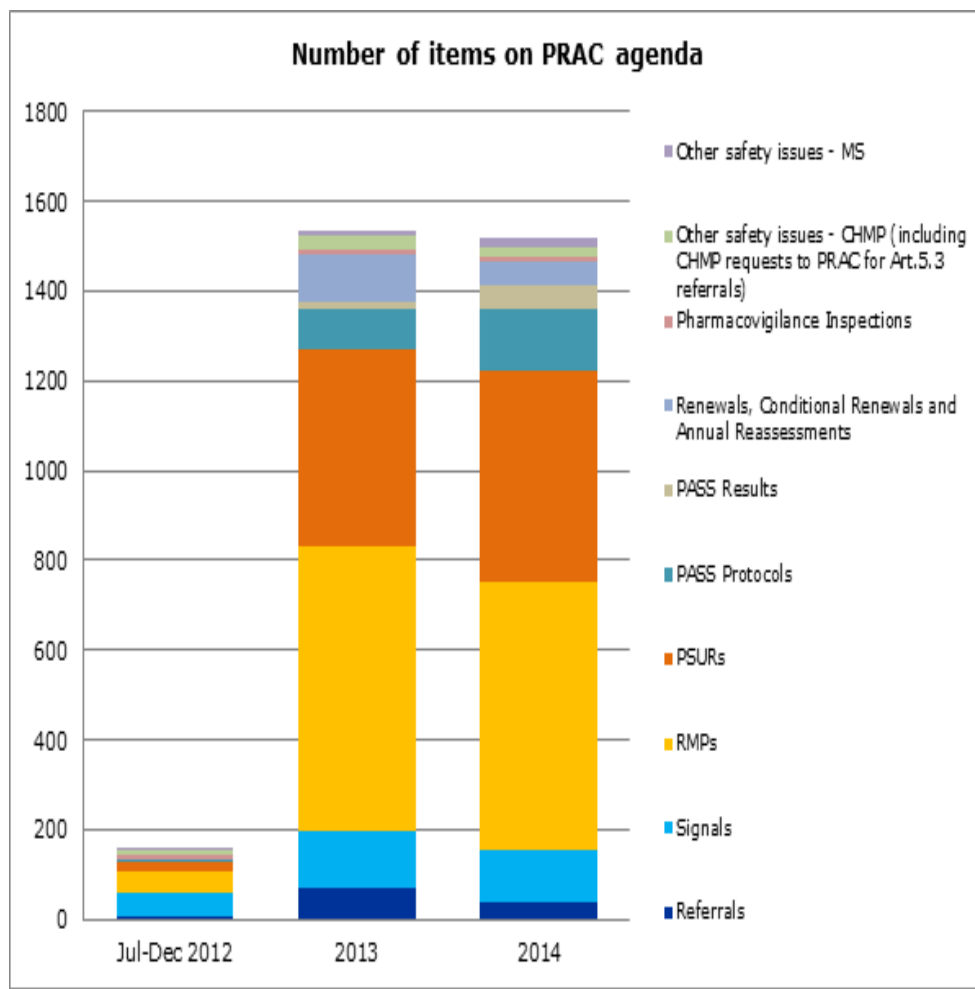
## ACTIONS BASED ON PHARMACOVIGILANCE CONCERNS

- Change of marketing authorisation
- Suspension
- Withdrawal
- Revocation
- Non-renewal



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# Items on the PRAC agenda

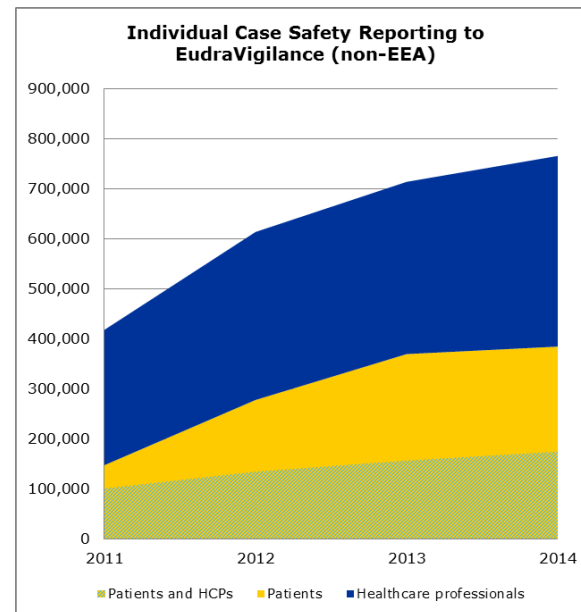
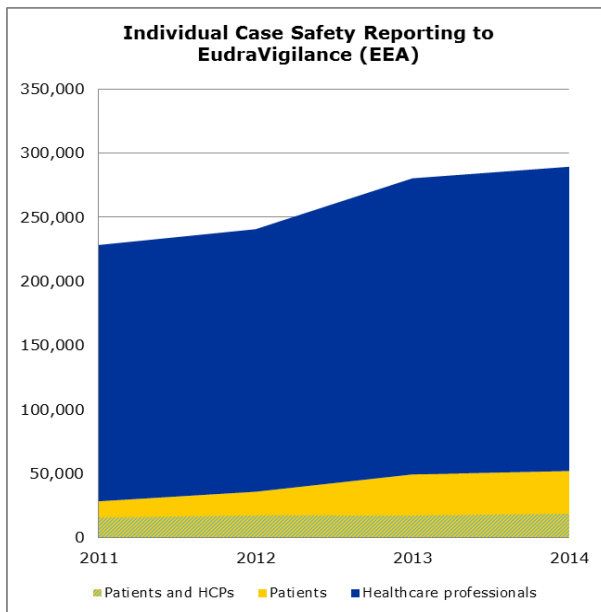




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# Monitoring adverse drug reactions

- Increasing number of reports
- Patient reporting increased by around 50%



# Signal management

## Aim

- Signal detection, validation, confirmation, analysis and prioritisation, assessment and recommendation for action

## Process

- Through **signal detection** signals are identified. The data is evaluated during **signal validation** to verify the existence of a new potentially causal association or a new aspect of a known association. **Confirmed signals** are **analysed and prioritisation** by PRAC. Following the scientific evaluation of all the evidence available through the **signal assessment** by PRAC a **recommendation** is made.

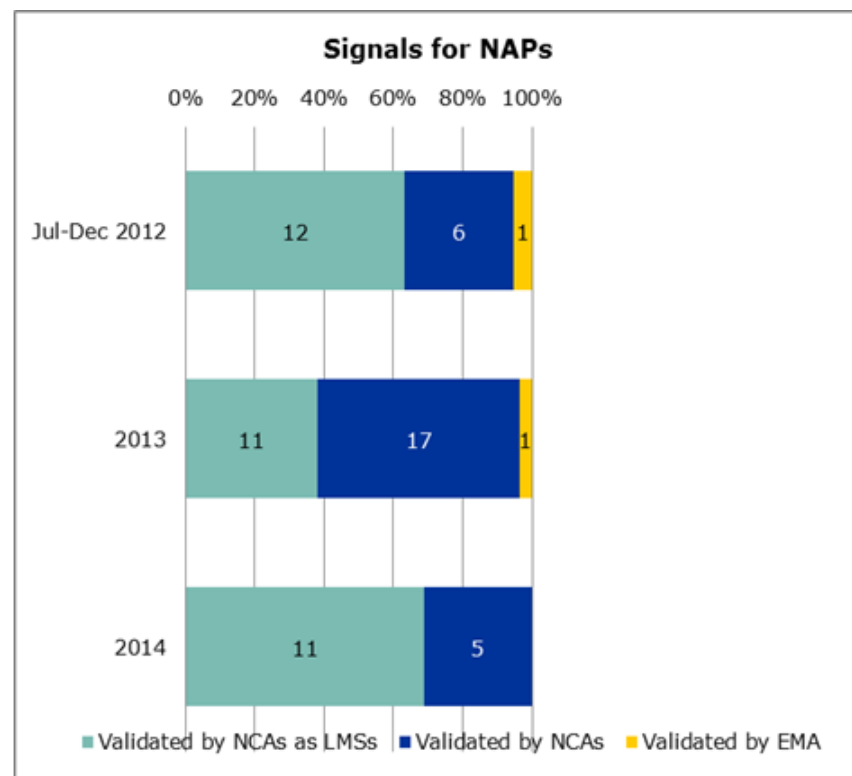
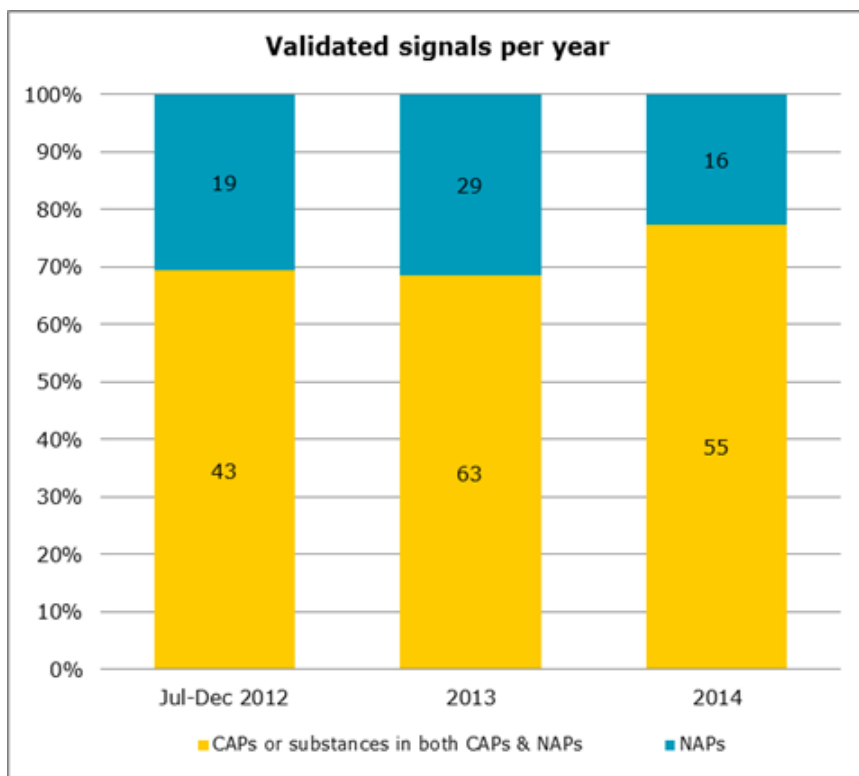
**Determined if there are new risks identified for a medicine and if changes to the marketing authorisation are required**





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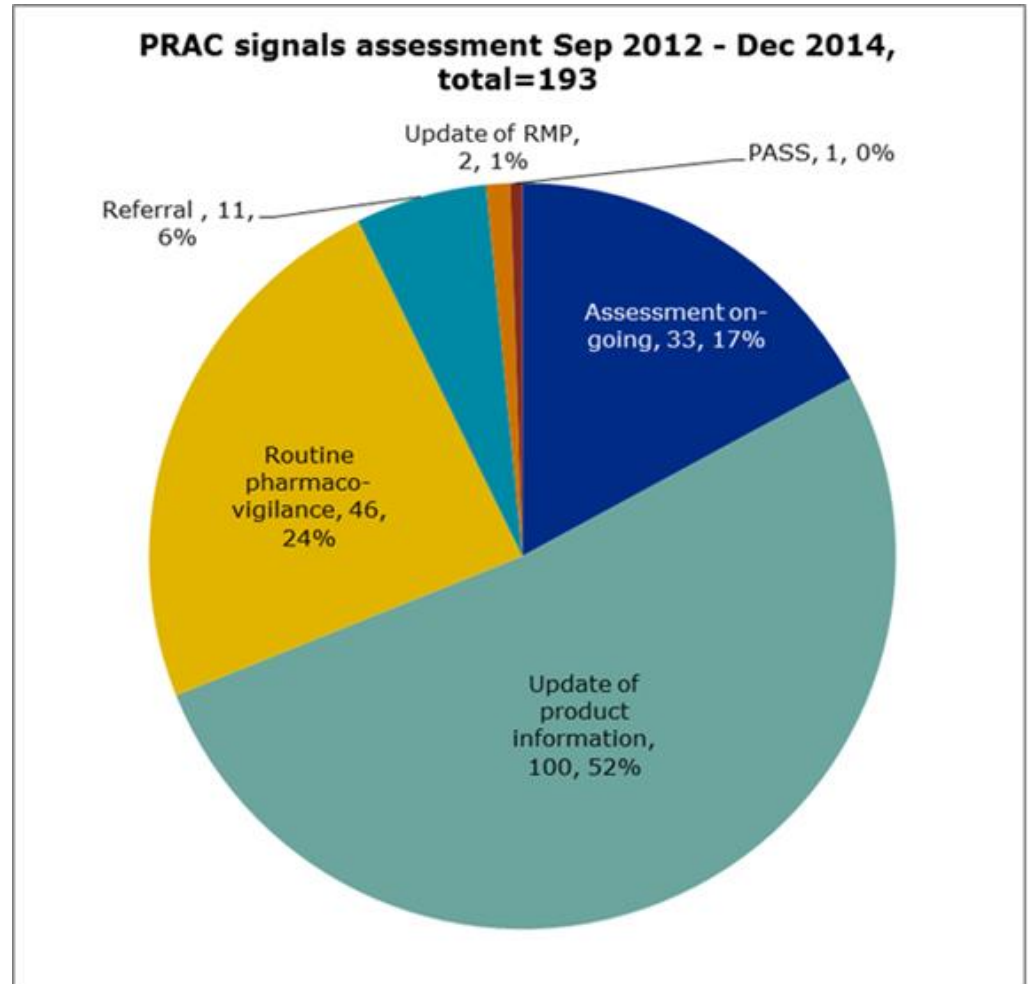
# Signals - collaborative validation





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# Signal detection recommendations

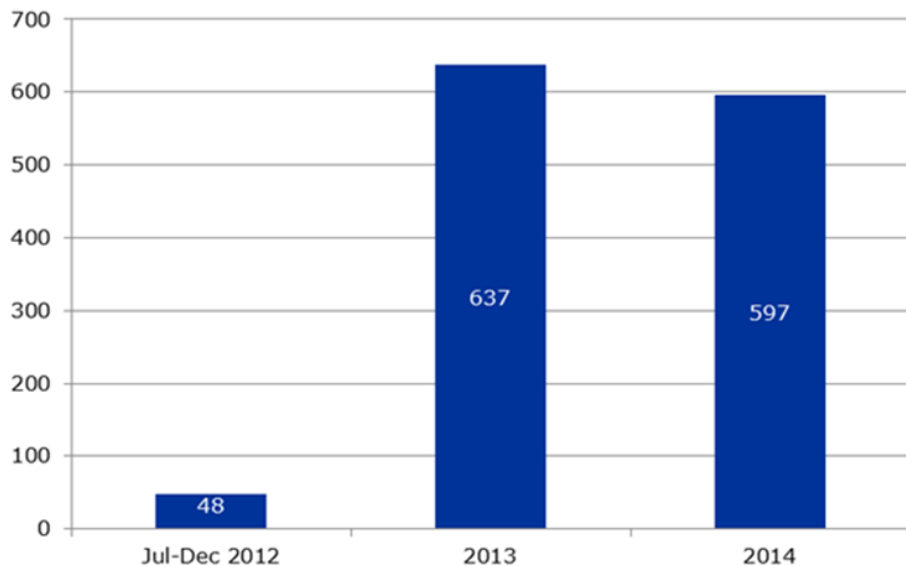




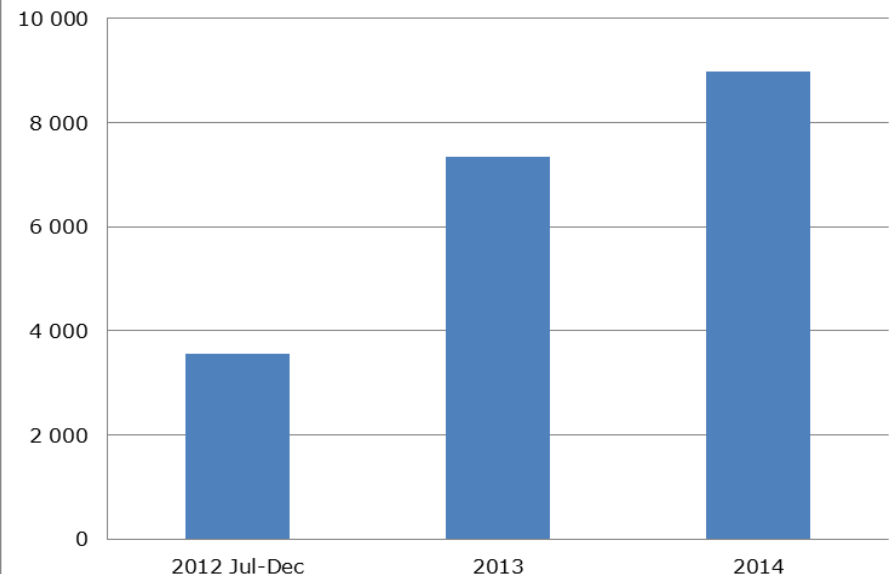
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# Risk management plans

Number of RMPs assessed by the PRAC per year



RMPs submitted to NCAs





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# Periodic Safety Update Reports

## Aim

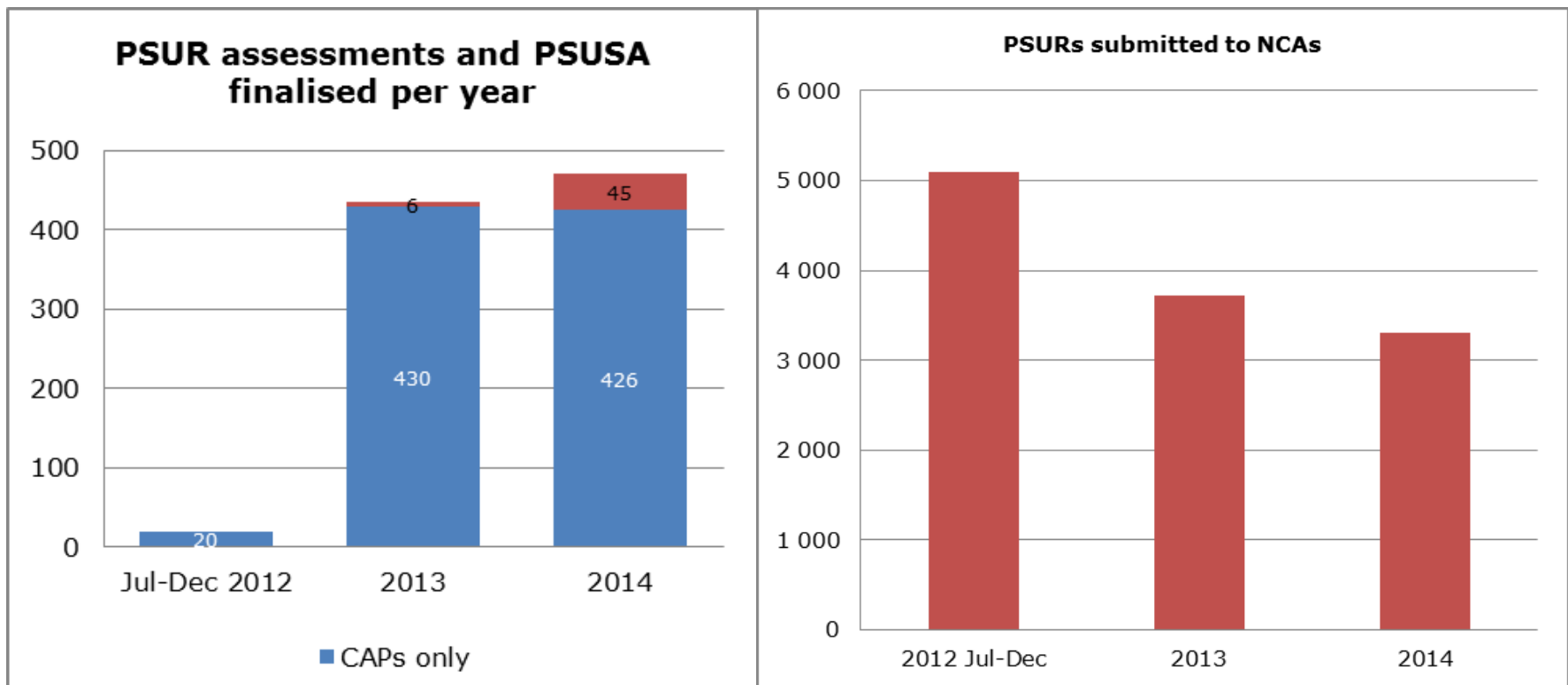
- Periodic safety update reports (PSURs) are reports providing an evaluation of the benefit-risk balance of a medicine
- Marketing authorisation holders must submit PSURs at defined time points following a medicine's authorisation

## Scope

- Cumulative data - focus on the new information
- Scientific assessment and integrated benefit-risk evaluation
- Single PSUR for all products containing the same active substance

**Determined if there are new risks identified for a medicine or whether the balance of benefits and risks has changed**

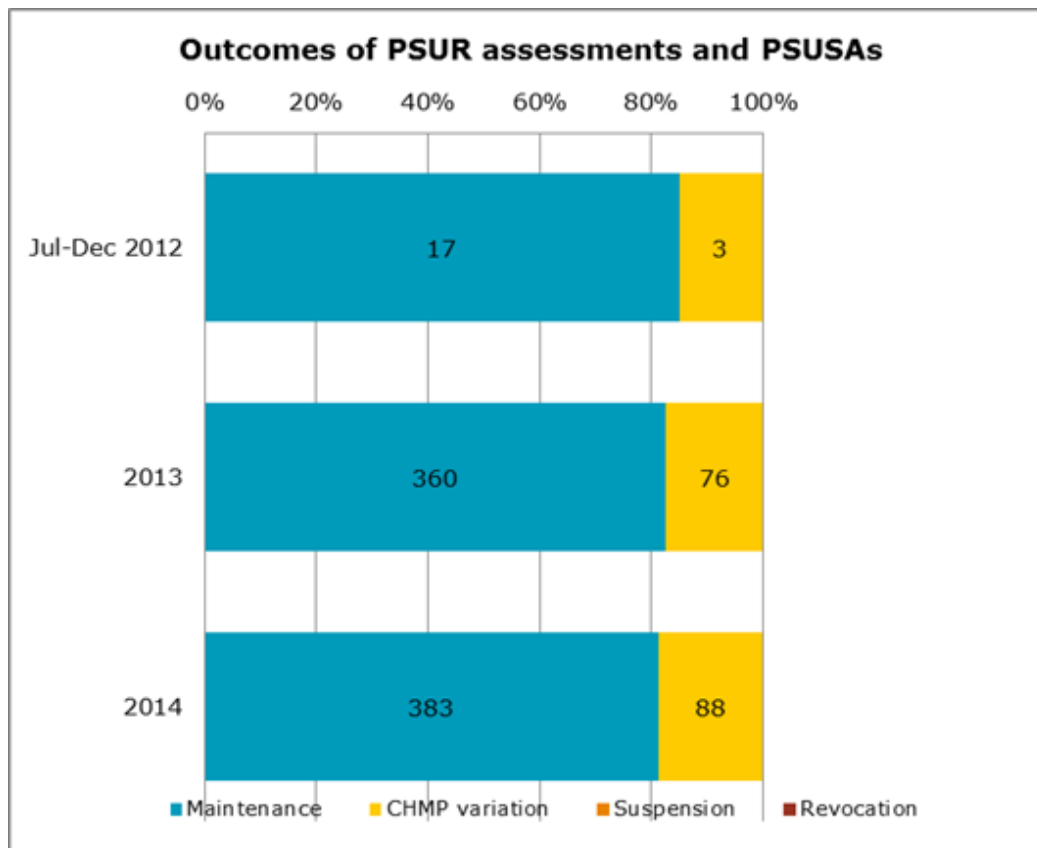
# PSUR assessments





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# PRAC PSUR assessments outcomes





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# Referral procedures

## Aim

- Resolves issues such as concerns over the **safety** or **benefit-risk balance** of a medicine or a class of medicines
- EMA conducts a **scientific assessment** on behalf of the EU and makes a **recommendation** for a harmonised position across the EU

## Safety-related referrals

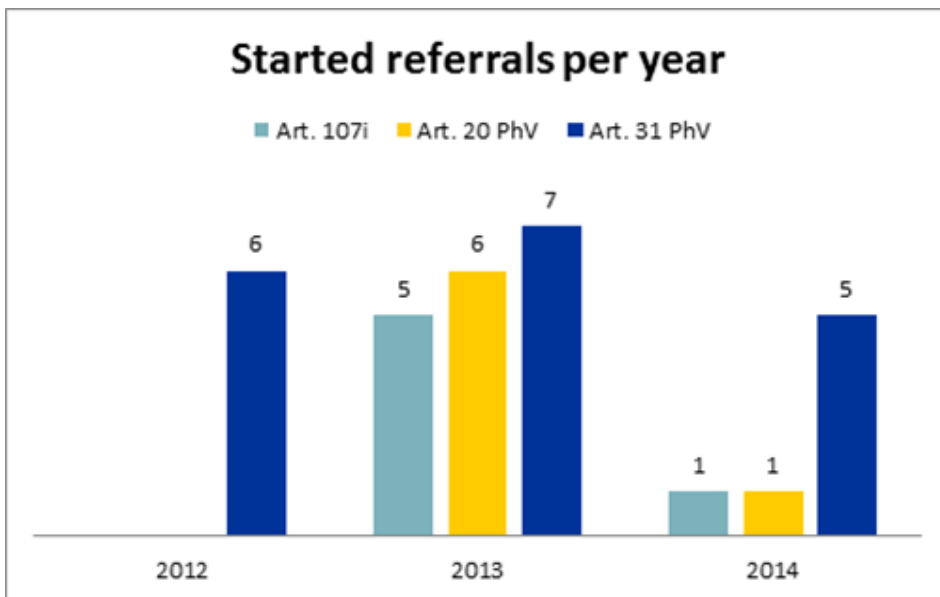
- **Based on evidence from pharmacovigilance** – assessment and recommendation by PRAC, then:
- **Centrally authorised or centrally and nationally authorised medicines:**
  - Assessed by the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP)
- **Only nationally authorised medicines**
  - Assessed by the Coordination Group for Mutual Recognition and Decentralised Procedures - Human (CMDh)

## Procedure

- **Can be started by the European Commission or any Member State**
- For most referrals, the **European Commission issues a decision to all Member States** reflecting the measures to take to implement the Agency's recommendation

# Pharmacovigilance referrals

**July 2012 – December 2014**



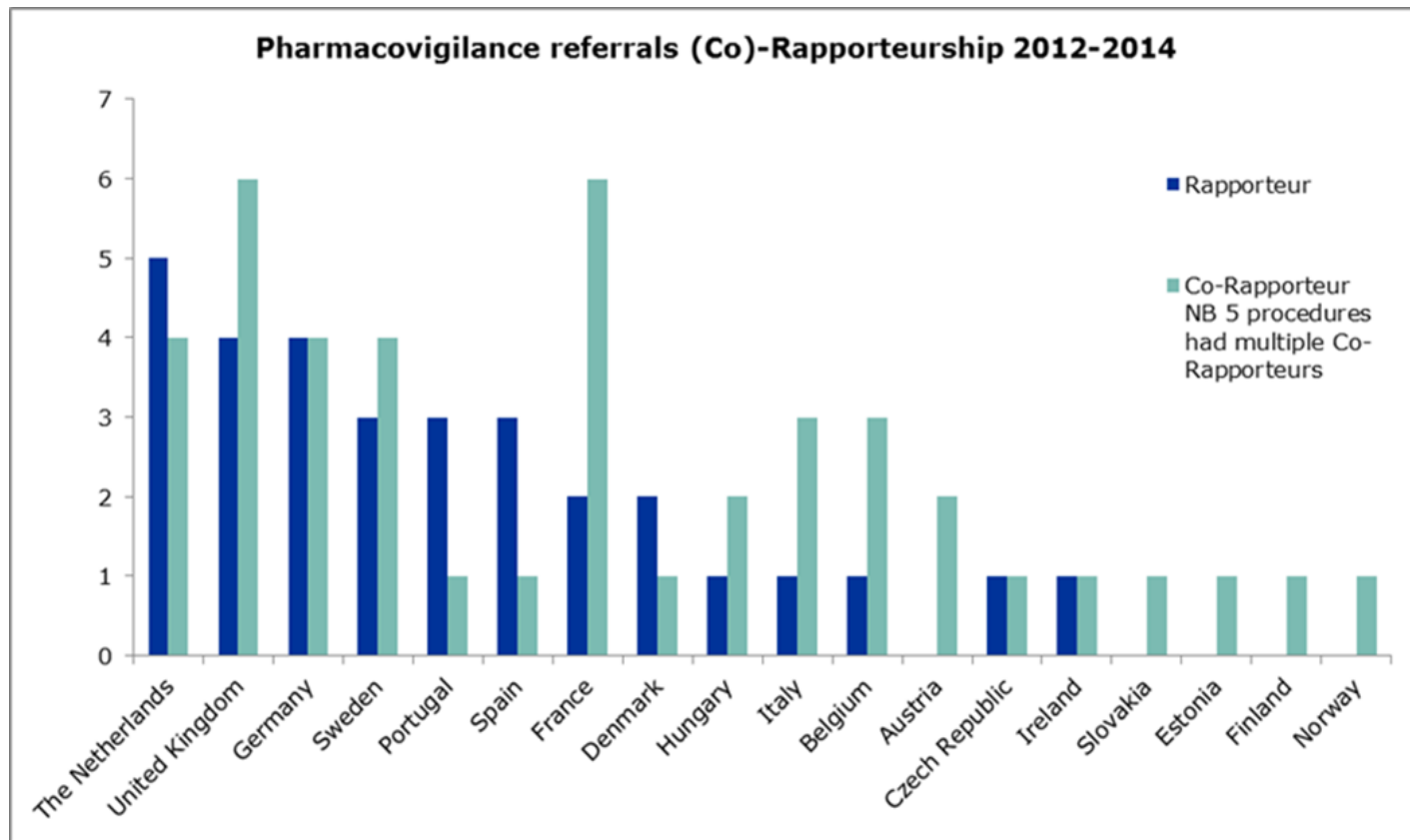
- 6 Art. 107i - urgent safety referrals for nationally authorised medicines
- 7 Art. 20 - related to centrally authorised medicines only
- 18 Art. 31 - related to nationally or nationally and centrally authorised medicines





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# Referrals - collaborative effort



# Referrals outcomes

- 24 variations of marketing authorisation (MA)
- 6 suspensions of indication or MA
- 4 revocations of indication or MA

# Communications and information

- Information related to the PRAC – agendas, minutes
- Public safety communications – e.g. concerning referrals
- European database of suspected ADRs
- European Network of Centres in Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacovigilance  
e.g. outcomes of imposed PASS
- Risk management plan summaries

# Systems and services

- Database of medicinal products authorised in the EU (Article 57 database)
- EudraVigilance enhancements
- Literature monitoring service
- PSUR repository

# Future deliverables

- Continuing process improvements and complete implementation of systems and services (e.g. EudraVigilance, extension of literature monitoring, dedicated European medicines web portal)
- Continue training network
- Strengthening Collaboration for Operating Pharmacovigilance in Europe (SCOPE) Joint Action



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# Thank you for your attention

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*Public Health information:*

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/index_en.htm)