Federal Agency for Medicines and Health Products
Avenue Galilée 5/03
1210 BRUSSELS
www.famhp.be

Chief Executive Officer's Services/
Communication Division

Press release

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FAMHP joins global MedSafetyWeek campaign with the message: 'Don't ignore side effects, report them'

The global MedSafetyWeek campaign takes place this week. The message is clear: 'Don't ignore suspected side effects, report them'. By doing so, you can help protect others. With 140 organisations across 130 countries sharing messages in more than 60 languages, the 2026 campaign will be the biggest to date.

Millions of people use medicines to improve their health. However, medicines can cause side effects, sometimes immediately and in other cases only after some time. By using medicines correctly, we can reduce the risk of side effects. And by reporting suspected side effects when they occur, we can help make medicines safer for everyone.

The FAMHP calls on all patients and healthcare professionals to remain alert to all types of side effects and to report them when they occur. These reports provide important information about the safety of medicines and help regulatory authorities such as the FAMHP respond to potential risks. In 2025, 8 730 side effects related to medicines for human use were reported.

'Reports from members of the public and healthcare professionals play a crucial role in monitoring the safety of medicines. Every report adds to our knowledge of patient safety and can help protect others in the future. Reporting a suspected side effect may seem like a small step, but it helps us make medicines safer for everyone.'
Hugues Malonne, CEO of the FAMHP

When should you, as a patient, be particularly alert to side effects?
The risk of side effects may be higher when you start taking a new medicine, change your dose, or use other medicines, food supplements or certain foods at the same time. Read the package leaflet of your medicine and discuss known side effects with your doctor or pharmacist. Consider whether your symptoms could be a side effect and report them, particularly if they affect your daily life, are serious or are not listed in the package leaflet. You do not need to be certain that the medicine caused the symptom in order to report a suspected side effect.

You can easily report suspected side effects via the website of the FAMHP.

Don't ignore side effects, report them.

More information about MedSafetyWeek
#MedSafetyWeek is an international campaign led by the Uppsala Monitoring Centre (UMC), the World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for International Drug Monitoring. The campaign is supported by the WHO, members of the International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities (ICMRA), and various national and international organisations committed to medicines safety. The campaign planning team includes representatives from the Uppsala Monitoring Centre, the Colombian Association of Pharmacovigilance (ACFV), the Egyptian chapter of the International Society of Pharmacovigilance (ISoP), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA, Philippines), the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA, Ireland) and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA, United Kingdom). The FAMHP is taking part in the campaign for the eleventh time.

Contact
Communication Division:+32 2 528 40 12 - comm@fagg-afmps.be
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About the FAMHP
In Belgium, the Federal Agency for Medicines and Health Products (FAMHP) is the competent authority to guarantee the quality, safety and efficacy of medicinal products and health products (medical devices and accessories, raw materials, blood and its components of human origin, human body material), both for human and veterinary use, in clinical development and on the market.