ELECTRONIC LABELLING FOR MEDICINES

Dear Healthcare Professional,

As part of the national drive towards a Smart Nation, HSA has embarked on a pilot programme to implement electronic labelling (e-labelling) for prescription only medicines (POM). The implementation will begin with a trial involving selected POM from companies participating in the pilot programme.

What is e-labelling?

E-labelling is essentially the digital version of the existing Package Insert (PI) and/or Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) that is currently distributed by drug companies in printed copies contained in the physical packs of the medicines.

Why is the PI important and what are the benefits of e-labelling vs paper inserts?

The PI is an official document that specifies the regulatory approval which HSA has granted for a product with respect to its clinical use, efficacy and safety. Companies have the legal duty and obligation to ensure that the PI contains the most up-to-date information as it is the official reference for communicating with healthcare professionals. PI/PIL often undergo updates with new safety and efficacy data superseding existing information. Once changes to the PI/PIL are approved by HSA, it may take up to a few months before the paper insert is updated to reflect the latest information. E-labelling allows healthcare professionals to receive up-to-date product information in a timely, accessible and eco-friendly format. This is in line with the increasing push to digitalise healthcare services at a national level.

How do I access e-labels?

As part of this pilot run, you would expect to encounter medicines presented with an URL or QR code on the outer carton (see example below), with or without the existing paper insert. Healthcare professionals (HCPs) may access the PI by keying in the URL or scanning a QR code using their electronic/mobile devices. The ePI/PILs are hosted on the individual drug companies' websites and are required by HSA to be consistent with the current approved product information.

We would like to take this opportunity to invite HCPs to provide feedback on your experience with e-labelling

Dear Healthcare Professional,

We would be grateful if you could spend 5-10 minutes of your time to share your experience with e-labelling with us. Your feedback is important to HSA in our review of the subsequent implementation of e-labelling. For online feedback, please access the following link (https://form.gov.sg/5d22b3735b492c001866ac0e), or scan this QR code:

You may also provide your feedback by completing this form and emailing it to: HSA_TP_Enquiry@hsa.gov.sg.

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1. **Please state your profession**

   ❑ Doctor
   ❑ Pharmacist

2. **Where do you usually obtain information on a medicine's usage, efficacy and safety?**

   ❑ Package insert
   ❑ Journal articles/International guidelines
   ❑ Others (please state):

   ....

3. **Have you experienced any difficulties (technical problems, navigation, readability etc) in accessing the e-PI/PIL?**

   ❑ Yes
   ❑ No

   If yes, please provide the details:

   ....

4. **Do you find that the e-PI/PIL is useful in delivering up-to-date product information and would you use it routinely as compared to other sources of information (as stated in q2 above)**

   ❑ Yes
   ❑ No

   If no, please provide reasons why:

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5. **Other comments:**

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