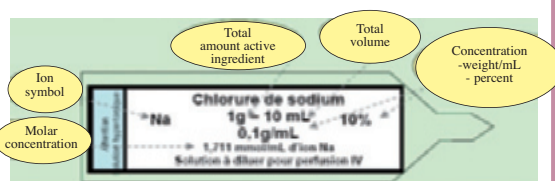


## France

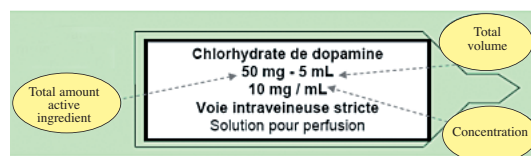
### Child's death leads to standardised labelling

In 2007, the wrong dose of IV morphine was given to a child by a nurse who had to prepare it. She confused the prescribed dose in mg and the concentration in % written on the ampoule and this led to the child's death. As a result of this accident, one of a series, the French medical products agency AFSSaPS decided to prohibit labelling the concentration of morphine as a percentage. But other injectable drugs are also labelled in percentage terms. So after discussions with healthcare workers and the pharmaceutical industry, AFSSaPS decided to standardise the labelling of 42 active ingredients available in small volume ampoules. Electrolytes and anaesthesia drugs are mainly involved. Concentrations in percentages are now forbidden except for electrolytes and the total amount per ampoule and the concentration in units/mL must be stated clearly in addition. To avoid risk of confusion, the first letters have to be in capitals for three substances: ADREnaline, ATROPine, EPHEDrine and for potassium chloride, the text must be in red.

The deadline for redesigning the labels was 1 January 2009. During the changeover period hospital pharmacists have been asked to exercise great vigilance to avoid any further mistakes. See below examples of standardised labels.



⇒ Sample electrolyte label



⇒ Sample drug label

AFSSaPS will monitor medication error reports to see if the new labelling of these 42 solutions has improved the legibility of labels.

*Christian Cornette, PharmD*

## Lithuania

### Medicines use in hospital pharmacy

Medicines used in hospitals play an important part in Lithuania's public health budget. The share of hospital pharmacy medicines is increasing year on year: from 7.4% of the total pharmacy market in 2007 to 8.7% in 2008. All hospital medicines are brought by transparent public tender between pharmacy companies, and the company that asks the lowest price wins the contract to supply.

Standard solutions account for slightly more than one quarter of the medicines used in the hospital sector and electrolyte solutions about 10% of all medicines, which is quite understandable because they are used so widely in medical procedures.

Antibiotics figure largely and their use in hospitals grew significantly from 2007 to 2008. The consumption of medium and narrow spectrum penicillins increased by 26.9%, of cephalosporins by 24.1%, whereas broad spectrum penicillins use rose by an astonishing 34.1%.

From the cost perspective, antineoplastic agents come in first place, taking 9% of the whole hospital pharmacy market funds. In second place are low osmolar angiourography agents (8.15%) and in third place are the standard solutions (5.95%).

*Professor Vincentas Veikutis  
Egle Svitojute, Pharmaceutical Student*

### EAHP Foundation seminar held in Vilnius

The 2009 EAHP Foundation seminar arranged in cooperation with the Lithuanian Association of Hospital Pharmacists was held in Vilnius, Lithuania, 17-19 April 2009. This time it was intended for chief pharmacists and managers within hospital pharmacy. Vilnius is both a historic and thriving modern city, and the old town has been declared a UNESCO world heritage site.

On the first day the lecturer, Ms Ingrid Tannert, spoke about leadership, its structure and personality. Themes included motivation and delegation, leadership styles, communication as a leadership tool and the archetypal concept of leadership. Advice was given about the use of quality management tools.

On the second day, Dr Christoph Buchta presented elements of quality management: human resources development, control of documents and records, continuous improvement and management process.

In the afternoon the workshop included process design and implementation of quality management systems, as well as staff training and development.

On the third day we visited the hospital pharmacy at Vilnius University Children's Hospital ([www.vuv1.lt](http://www.vuv1.lt)) and learned about the Lithuanian healthcare system.

All participants found this seminar very helpful, both for course content and networking opportunities.

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## Switzerland

### National congress 2008

In November 2008, the Swiss Society of Public Health Administration and Hospital Pharmacists - (GSASA), celebrated its 60th anniversary at a national congress in Lucerne, Switzerland. Titled *60 years GSASA – at the beginning of the future*. The future of hospital pharmacy in Switzerland was discussed in terms of political aims, regulatory circumstances and new technologies.

More than 50 posters from all over Switzerland were presented during the poster sessions and the jury had the difficult task of making five awards. The work presented was generally of high quality and usefulness. The eleven oral communications, presented in two sessions, were very attractive, too.

More than 270 participants attended the event and their feedback was positive. The scientific level was judged to be high and the networking possibilities were very much appreciated.

The programme and lectures can be seen on the GSASA website in French and German ([www.gsasa.ch](http://www.gsasa.ch) > education > continuing education > annual congresses).

In 2009, the national congress will be held in collaboration with the European Society of Clinical Pharmacy.

***Susanna Kussmann, PhD***



Photographer: William Griffith