



EAHP SURVEY

The future potential of electronic product information (ePI)



Inspired by a project carried out in Belgium and Luxembourg evaluating the effectiveness of the electronic patient information leaflet and the key principles created by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the Heads of Medicines Agencies (HMA), EAHP conducted a survey on the use of electronic product information (ePI) in European hospitals. The survey was carried out in cooperation with the Inter-Association Task Force for electronic product information composed out of Medicines for Europe, EFPIA (European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations) and AESGP (Association of the European Self-Care Industry) from March to April 2021 and targeted hospital pharmacists in 36 European countries, ultimately receiving 534 answers.

The main findings of the survey are the following:

Almost 60% of respondents reported that healthcare professionals use the digital version when they wish to obtain information on a medicine. Hospital pharmacists (93%) are those using most frequently the digital format of the product information followed by physicians (71%) and nurses (43%). Given that the survey only targeted hospital pharmacists, it should be noted that the presumed behaviour of both healthcare professionals and patients are always the opinion of the hospital pharmacists' answering the survey.

The survey reveals that patients are usually not provided with paper package leaflets and only 21% of respondents reported that medicines information is provided orally to patients. In this regard, the majority of respondents see the potential of further informing patients by giving them access to ePI. It would also ensure that the information accessed is up to date.

The report nevertheless acknowledged that some challenges should be addressed concurrently, especially equipping hospitals with the appropriate IT infrastructure while at the same time taking into account the structural preconditions of hospitals in Europe regarding the technical equipment to use ePI in daily practice.

Read the survey report [HERE](#) ^[1]

Access the infographic [HERE](#) ^[2]

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Links

[1]

https://www.eahp.eu/sites/default/files/eahp_survey_report_the_future_potential_of_electronic_product_information.pdf

[2]

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