



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

Amsterdam, 23 March 2020
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COVID-19: Notice to wholesalers and parallel distributors

EMA and its partners in the European medicines regulatory network¹ are closely monitoring the potential impact of the outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on the supply of medicines into and within the EU.

If the outbreak affects supply chains, some medicines, active substances or medical devices could become harder to source and there could be an increase in offers of products that may be falsified.

Medicines that could be targeted include those for treating vulnerable patients and those for relieving symptoms of COVID-19.

EMA is reminding wholesalers and parallel distributors:

- To exercise extra caution when considering offers from new suppliers and report suspicious offers to their national competent authority.
- To qualify and approve any new suppliers before procuring medicines from them and only obtain supplies from holders of wholesale dealer authorisation (WDA) or manufacturing import authorisation (MIA) located in the EU. The authorisation of the WDA or the MIA holder should be checked on EudraGMP and there should be no GMDP non-compliance statement
- To ensure customers are approved.
- To verify the authenticity of the safety features of packs in physical possession in accordance with Article 20 of Directive 2011/62/EU.
- To pay extra attention to OTC products (such as paracetamol) bearing no safety features.

Wholesale distributors intending to import medicines into the EU from third countries must hold a manufacturing authorisation (MIA). Please refer to the EU's Good Manufacturing practice (GMP) and [Good Distribution Practice](#) (GDP) guidelines for further information.

If you do receive a medicine that you suspect may be falsified, contact the marketing authorisation holder, the relevant authority ([EMA](#) or the national competent authority).

EMA and its partners in the European medicines regulatory network would like to thank wholesalers and parallel distributors for their diligence and co-operation in protecting public health.

¹ The network includes national competent authorities and the European Commission.

