DISCLOSURES

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

REFERENCES


To the Editor:

We read with interest the recent article in JMCP by Marchand et al., “The U.S. Food and Drug Administration: Drug Information Resource for Formulary Recommendations,” which provided an excellent review of information on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) website.1 While targeted to managed care pharmacists, this information is also valuable to any individual involved in formulary management. Indeed, we reference the FDA’s website routinely in our drug evaluations for a system of hospitals in the Northeast region. The subsequent editorial by Navarro, “Rediscovering the FDA Website,” lists various drug information resources referenced by medical and pharmacy directors.2

We would like to recommend an additional source: the European Medicines Agency’s (EMEA) website.3 As with the FDA’s website, extensive pre-approval and postmarketing data are available. We have found this resource to be of particular value for agents that have been approved by the EMEA before receiving FDA approval (e.g., rivaroxaban). Another example is biosimilars. The EMEA has had considerable postmarketing experience with biosimilars, since they became available in Europe in 2006. The latter is typically documented in the section “Procedural steps taken and scientific information after the authorisation” for each product. Thus, we expect the EMEA’s database to be of increasing value to U.S. formulary decision makers in their respective settings once biosimilars are commercially available in this country.3

Prabashni Reddy, PharmD, MMedSc, RPh
Director
Center for Drug Policy, Partners Healthcare
preddy2@partners.org

Yu-Chen Yeh, MS, RPh
Senior Pharmacist
Center for Drug Policy, Partners Healthcare
yyeh@partners.org

DISCLOSURES

Both authors are employed by Partners Healthcare. The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

REFERENCES


