



ABC Project Newsletter

Special Issue - February 2009

Ascertaining Barriers for Compliance: policies for safe, effective and cost-effective use of medicines in Europe



ABC Project is the EU-funded (7th Framework Programme of European Union) research initiative to improve patient compliance to medication in Europe involving 6 research centres: Medical University of Lodz (Poland), University of Aberdeen (UK), Bangor University (UK), Pharmionic Systems Ltd. (Switzerland), Keele University - NCP Plus (UK), Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium). The strategic goal of this project is to produce evidence-based policy recommendations for improving patient compliance, and thus raising the effectiveness use of medications of medications by Europeans. Project's findings are expected to help health policymakers to take right decisions in order to minimize the negative impact of non-compliance. ABC was launched on January 1, 2009 and will run until December 31, 2011.

Research results unequivocally point at non-compliance as a major barrier to realise the benefits of evidence-based treatments, both in the case of long-term treatment and of short-term medication, e.g. antimicrobial therapy. The lower the compliance, the poorer the outcomes, and the less cost-effective treatments become. Moreover, non-compliance is accompanied with increased health services utilisation, and increased healthcare expenditures. With its prevalence reaching 50% of patients, medication non-compliance is a global issue of major public health concern. This is reflected in a recent report by the World Health Organisation which calls the non-compliance 'a worldwide problem of striking magnitude' (WHO 2003). In such circumstances, no further improvement in the effectiveness of therapeutic and prophylactic medication can be realised without addressing patient non-compliance. www.ABCproject.eu

ESPACOMP symposium 2009

The ESPACOMP symposium has become the meeting place for an increasing number of international adherence researchers, physicians, pharmacists, pharmacoepidemiologists, statisticians and industry representatives interested in ambulatory patient compliance and persistence with prescribed therapies. These meetings constitute a major event in research on the clinical & economic consequences and origins of patient non-adherence to prescribed drug dosing regimens. This year's ESPACOMP meeting will be held on 10-11 September in Bangor, UK. On September 11, 2009. ABC Project will coordinate a European consensus meeting on taxonomy and terminology of patient compliance. www.iadherence.net

NICE guideline on patient compliance to medicines released

In January 2009 the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, UK, published the guideline called Medicines Adherence: involving patients in decisions about prescribed medicines and supporting adherence, prepared by the National Collaborating Centre for Primary Care, Royal College of General Practitioners. The guidance is on enabling patients to make informed choices by involving and supporting them in decisions about prescribed medicines. It explains guidance from NICE to the NHS in England and Wales. www.nice.org.uk

ISPOR Meeting in USA

Dyfrig Hughes from Bangor University will be making reference to the ABC project as part of the Special Interest Group on Medication Compliance and Persistence at the 14th Annual International Meeting of International Society for Pharmacoeconomics & Outcomes Research, May 16-20, Orlando, Florida, USA. ISPOR is an international, educational and scientific organization that promotes the science of pharmacoeconomics and outcomes research, and facilitates the translation of this research into useful information for healthcare decision-makers to ensure that society allocates scarce health care resources wisely and efficiently. www.ispor.org

ABC Project Kick Off Meeting

The ABC Project Kick Off meeting hosted by the project coordinator, Medical University of Lodz, Poland, was held on January 9, 2009. The official opening by the Rector of MUL was followed by press conference led by Przemyslaw Kardas, Scientific Coordinator of the ABC Project. Consortium members were represented by Valerie Morrison and Emily Fargher from Bangor University (United Kingdom), Wendy Clyne from Keele University (United Kingdom), Fabienne Dobbels from Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium), Ian Gould from Aberdeen University (United Kingdom) and Jenny Demonceau and Bernard Vrijens from Pharmionic Systems Ltd. (Switzerland). The list of honorary guests included Roman Danielewicz, Director of the Department of Science and Higher Education of Polish Ministry of Health, Anita Kucharska - European Commission Officer, Anna Pytko and Ewa Szkiladz from the Polish 7FP Contact Point.





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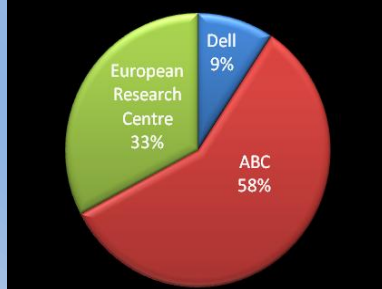
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ABC Project Kick Off – the most significant event of January in Lodz

ABC project kick off was voted the event of the month in the Internet poll *Successful Lodz* run by local TV *Toya* and local branch of the most popular Polish newspaper *Gazeta Wyborcza* and the *Eska* radio station. ABC project received more votes than two other competing events: locating new Dell production lines in Lodz and opening the European Centre for Macro-, Micro-Molecular and Diagnostic Research. The award was collected by Prof. Radzislaw Kordek, Rector for Science and International Relations of the Medical University of Lodz, and Pawel Lewek, ABC Project Dissemination Manager.

Successful Lodz poll results



Eyeforpharma Patient Relationship Management Conference

Przemyslaw Kardas will present ABC Project at the Eyeforpharma 6th Patient Relationship Management conference in London 9-10 June 2009. The conference is bringing leading professionals and pharmaceutical companies together to discuss major issues and challenges in the field of patient compliance. www.eyeforpharma.com

Interactive webcast on patient compliance

A highly innovative form of web-based interactive seminar, targeted at pharmaceutical industry on measuring patient compliance to build brand value, advertised in *Pharmaceutical Executive Magazine* by Quintiles Innovex Corp., may be a proof of the rising awareness of non-adherence issue significance. <http://pharmexec.findpharma.com/>

USING PATIENT ADHERENCE PROGRAMS to Prove the Value of your Brands for today's Payor Marketplace

Friday, January 30, 2009 12:00 PM ET

Pharma is facing a new reality: As never before, key customers—from prescription drug plans to government to large medical practices—are demanding data on patient outcomes. As pharma companies scramble to meet these new expectations many are ignoring a powerful data source that they may already have developed: their own patient adherence programs.

In this program, you will

- Discover the criteria payors rely on for brand selection
- Learn how your colleagues are approaching the challenges of market

Need for uniform terminology on patient compliance

Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy Advance Access published the letter to the editor by Jochen W. L. Cals from Maastricht University Medical Centre that calls for uniformity in reporting on compliance with antibiotics for acute respiratory tract infections (ARTI) in order to increase transparency and improve comparability. The author proposes a defined set of outcome measures when using electronic monitoring to describe antibiotic compliance for ARTI to be applied in future studies. 'Compliance data on chronic medication use are vast. Within the domain of short-term antibiotic compliance for ARTI, we now have the opportunity to provide standardization in reporting with the steadily increasing amount of evidence,' argues the author. (**JAC, Advance Access published February 24, 2009**)

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