

Relevant Health Information for Patients & Consumers

EXAMPLES OF HEALTH AUTHORITY RESOURCES

Belgian Ministry of Health campaigns on good usage of antibiotics, benzodiazepines, etc. <http://portal.health.fgov.be> and <http://www.bcfi.be>

French Institute for Health Prevention and Education campaigns on hepatitis, cancer prevention, vaccinations, etc. www.inpes.sante.fr

United Kingdom government information on drugs affecting driver's vigilance <http://www.dft.gov.uk/think/drugdrive/>

Outside Europe:

Australian consumer portal of the National Prescribing Service www.nps.org.au

Health Canada Drug Safety Advisories: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/advisories-avis/

EXAMPLES OF HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS RESOURCES

UK National Health Service distributes information on diseases, their diagnosis and treatments through NHS Direct Online <http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk>

Modellverbund Unabhängige Patientenberatung Deutschland gGmbH, a network of independent patient organisations financed by German statutory sickness funds <http://www.unabhaengige-patientenberatung.de/>

German **Arzneimittelkommission der deutschen Ärzteschaft** produces brochures containing guidelines on the treatment and prevention of various diseases <http://www.akdae.de>. They are published by Techniker Krankenkasse and other healthcare authorities.

EXAMPLES OF MEDICAL PRODUCTS AGENCY RESOURCES

Swedish Medicines Agency recommendations <http://www.lakemedelsverket.se>

Finnish Medicines Agency reviews on drug information for consumers and patients <http://www.fimea.fi/>

Outside Europe:

American Food and Drug Administration drug-safety consumer information portal www.fda.gov/cder/drug/drugsafety/DrugIndex.htm

EXAMPLES OF HEALTHCARE ASSESSMENT AGENCY RESOURCES

German Institut für Qualität und Wirtschaftlichkeit im Gesundheitswesen (IQWiG) offers evidence-based advice on treatments and healthcare <http://www.gesundheitsinformation.de/>

National Institute for Health and Clinical Evidence (NICE) provides information for both the public and healthcare professionals <http://www.nice.org.uk/>

Swedish organisation **Statens beredning för medicinsk utvärdering (SBU)** provide advice on available treatments and preventive measures, both online <http://www.sbu.se> and in pharmacies.

EXAMPLES OF HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS RESOURCES

German **Gute Pillen Schlechte Pillen**, a consumer bulletin on medicines jointly founded by three member journals of the International Society of Drug Bulletins (arznei-telegramm, Pharma-Brief, Der Arzneimittelbrief) www.gutepillen-schlechtepillen.de

Italian Health and Drug Information Centre of the Mother-Child Health Research Laboratory of Mario Negri Institute www.marionegri.it

German organisation **Ärztliches Zentrum für Qualität in der Medizin** www.patienten-information.de

Moldovan organisation **Medex** (ISDB full member) (website under construction)

EXAMPLES OF CONSUMER ORGANISATIONS RESOURCES

Which? offers advice for patients seeking reliable information www.which.co.uk

Health talk online collects patients' personal experiences to improve quality of care <http://www.healthtalkonline.org/>

Stiftung Warentest, publishes the handbook, "Handbuch Medikamente", containing up-to-date comprehensive treatment information for patients <http://www.test.de/>

EXAMPLES OF CONSUMER ORGANISATIONS RESOURCES *continued*

Verbraucherzentralen Bundesverband produces information on diseases and their treatments intended for patients and the general public
www.vzbv.de

Kilen works particularly on drug adverse effects (patient reporting and prevention) www.kilen.org

Joint actions are conducted by consumers and other independent partners such as the campaign promoting good drug usage based on the INN system, led by **Que Choisir, La revue Prescrire, and Fédération nationale de la mutualité**
www.prescrire.org/cahiers/dossierDciAccueil.php

EXAMPLES OF INDEPENDENT PATIENT ORGANISATIONS RESOURCES

DES Action defends victims of diethylstilbestrol (DES) and has generated a wealth of information on this subject www.desaction.org

German **Buko Pharma-Kampagne** provides critical information on drugs for patients and the public, and also represents patients on the advisory committee of the self-governing healthcare administration in Germany
www.bukopharma.de

Belgian **Ligue des Usagers des Services de Santé** discusses public health issues as they affect the day-to-day patient reality (e.g. generics or smoking ban in restaurants) and provides practical information <http://www.luss.be/>

Mind, the British National Association for Mental Health is an example of association with a strict policy of independence and producing information for the public www.mind.org.uk

Insulin Dependent Diabetes Trust does not accept funding from the pharmaceutical industry and provides information for the public
<http://www.iddtinternational.org>

The Unabhängige Patientenberatung (UPD), a network of independent patient organisations financed by German statutory sickness funds, has a specialised unit which gives patients individual information on medicines:
<http://www.unabhaengige-patientenberatung.de/unabhaengige-arzneimittelberatun.html>