

HPRA Patient Forum Meeting Record

Tuesday 12 December 2023, Hybrid meeting (HPRA offices and Microsoft Teams)

Chair: Dr Paula Kilbane

1 Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

Members in attendance included Jacqui Browne, Melody Buckley, Mark Byrne, Mandy Daly, John Dowling, Siobhán Freeney, Peter Murphy and Ann Twomey.

2 Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were declared.

3 Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

4 Record of the last meeting

The record of the meeting held on 19 September 2023 was agreed.

5 Matters arising/issues of interest

Recent media coverage relating to use of compression springs during surgical procedures performed at Children's Health Ireland (CHI), Temple Street was noted. It was outlined that, at this point in time, the HPRA understands that the springs used were not intended to be sold or supplied as medical devices. The use of products not intended to be sold

or supplied as medical devices by healthcare providers, as well as other areas of clinical practice, are matters of clinical governance. As the HPRA does not regulate clinical practice, these fall outside of the HPRA's remit. Members were informed that an inquiry has been launched at the request of the Minister for Health, and the HPRA will continue to actively engage with the HSE and HIQA, to provide expert input on medical devices and regulation, as required.

It was also noted that the HPRA hosted a workshop on 11 December as part of the Irish Platform for Patient Organisations, Science, and Industry (IPPOSI) Patient Education Programme.

Members were thanked for their voluntary participation in initiatives outside the work of the Patient Forum. Such initiatives included contribution to the HPRA's ongoing website redevelopment project and independent participation in patient/public consultations with the Expert Taskforce to Support the Expansion of the Role of Pharmacy.

6 Terms of reference review

A presentation was delivered on the Patient Forum's terms of reference, with specific consideration of matters relating to membership, in addition to diversity and inclusivity of representation. The presentation outlined the HPRA's existing focus on and commitment to diversity and inclusion, and how this is embedded in the values, culture and activities of the organisation.

Members expressed support for opening the Patient Forum to new members. With regards to diversity and inclusivity of representation, it was agreed that further examination of the matter is required. A review

will be undertaken, and a plan developed, for discussion at a future meeting of the forum.

7 Patient Forum work plan for 2024

A presentation was delivered outlining member feedback received on potential topics for inclusion in the Patient Forum work plan for 2024, along with a proposed work plan. The themes included were:

- The HPRA's website redevelopment project
- Educational materials for medicines
- Health products innovation
- Online sale of medicines and medical devices
- The Patient Speaker Programme

Forum members adopted the workplan as proposed. Members proposed that consideration be given to capturing the information delivered as part of future information sessions, so that it is available to members who may be unable to attend certain meetings, and for new members. The HPRA agreed to explore the matter further. The HPRA thanked the members for their valuable feedback throughout the development of the work plan.

8 HPRA website redevelopment project

The HPRA presented an update on the current status of its ongoing website redevelopment project, as well as future plans. Patient Forum members were thanked for their valuable input on the project to date, with further opportunity for input anticipated as the project progresses in 2024. Members were assured that accessibility of the website will be a central tenet of the redevelopment. Further updates will be delivered at future meetings of the forum.

9 Meeting dates

Members were informed that meeting dates for 2024 are under review and will be finalised in Q1 2024.