Press Release

Tuesday, 1 July 2014

IRISH MEDICINES BOARD BECOMES THE
HEALTH PRODUCTS REGULATORY AUTHORITY (HPRA)

New name reflects expanded regulatory remit

A new name for the national regulator for medicines, medical devices and other health products came into effect today. The Health Products Regulatory Authority (the HPRA) is the new name for the Irish Medicines Board (IMB). According to the HPRA, the new name more clearly reflects its broader remit and wider scope of functions and responsibilities across the health products sector which have expanded significantly since the IMB was first established in 1996. To coincide with its new brand announcement, a new user friendly website which provides significant information on health products and will be of interest to members of the public, healthcare professionals as well as health products industry has been also launched at www.hpra.ie.

The Health Products Regulatory Authority (the HPRA) role is to protect and enhance public and animal health through the regulation of medicines, medical devices and other health products. Its remit has expanded significantly over the past 18 years to a point today where it has a role in regulating medicines for people and animals, medical devices and equipment used in healthcare, blood and blood components, organs for transplantation, tissues and cells as well as cosmetic products.

The agency was originally founded as the National Drugs Advisory Board in 1966, under the auspices of the Department of Health. It became the Irish Medicines Board in 1996 and has gone through considerable expansion since that time.

Pat O'Mahony, Chief Executive, Health Products Regulatory Authority (the HPRA), commented on the launch, "We're delighted to bring this new chapter of our organisation's history to fruition and we are proud to launch the Health Products Regulatory Authority today and to highlight the key role our organisation plays as the regulator of the health products sector. This is a hugely positive change as the organisation has evolved beyond recognition since the IMB's inception in 1996. It is our ambition to continue to build on the established reputation of the IMB as a professional, progressive and science driven public sector organisation. While we are changing our name, our goal remains the same. We continue to work on behalf of patients and the public to protect and enhance the health of those who use the health products we regulate." The Health Products Regulatory Authority (the HPRA) new brand identity reflects what the body stands for; protecting and enhancing public and animal health. The 'molecule' design reflects the evidence and science that support all our actions and decisions.

The regulation of all health products under the remit of the Health Products Regulatory Authority (the HPRA) is based on Irish and European legislation. For more detailed information on the role and work of the HPRA across each of the health product areas please visit www.hpra.ie

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ABOUT THE HEALTH PRODUCTS REGULATORY AUTHORITY:

The Health Products Regulatory Authority (the HPRA) protects and enhances public health and animal health by regulating medicines, medical devices and other health products. The products under its remit include human and veterinary medicines, medical devices, blood and blood components, tissues and cells, organs for transplantation and cosmetics. Formerly known as the Irish Medicines Board (IMB), it became the Health Products Regulatory Authority on 1 July 2014.