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UNION EUROPEENNE DES MEDECINS OMNIPRATICIENS**



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**Medicine's use in children and young people**

The advances in paediatric and young people's medical knowledge, the amelioration of diagnostic tools and the increasing number and quality of diagnostics in children and young people has lead to the growing use of medicines in such ages. Following the need for well being and the accomplishment of the World Health Organizations, doctors have the ever growing need to use medicine's.

In children and young adults, medicine's trials only recently have had specific rules (1).

So being, it must be concluded that many medicine's have been used off label (2) or in the assumption that the reduction in dose – when compared with adult's – is feasible, wich in fact is not true (3).

The use of Medicine's in children and young people is not yet guided by the knowledge of its efficacy and safety (1,2). In fact, much of the safety knowledge is based on industry's periodic reports anecdotal papers and yellow page notification by health professionals. Its clinical indications being similar to adults's must be carefully thought and weighted.

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In the light of these facts, the practical knowledge of Doctors working in General Practice/Family Medicine in these matters should be driven from officially published information so that no legal and ethical problems are possible.

In particular UEMO wishes to state the importance of programs like those of the European Medicines Evaluation Agency in <http://emea.europa.eu/htms/human/paediatrics/pips.htm>, and exorts all General Practitioners/Family Doctors to participate in it and also to maximize their role in local pharmacovigilance programs.

1 - Steinbrock R, Health Policy Report – Testing Medications in Children; N Engl J Med 2002; 347(18):1462-1470).

2-Evidence-based prescribing – BMA Board of science 2007, London; 8-9)

3 - Wood AJJ Developmental Pharmacology – drug disposition, action, and therapy in infants and children; N Engl J Med 2003; 349(12):1157-1165)