

Calling European Pediatric Research Networks

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) is fully committed to facilitating a “virtual” European Network through linking all existing national and European networks, investigators and centers with specific expertise in the performance of pediatric studies. This commitment is grounded in the Pediatric Regulation EC No 1901/2006, as amended (Article 44), which has the objective

- to ensure that medicinal products used to treat children are subject to ethical research of high quality and are appropriately authorized for use in the pediatric population,
- to improve the information available on the use of medicinal products in the various pediatric populations,
- to achieve the above without subjecting the pediatric population to unnecessary clinical trials.

Clinical trials in the pediatric population require specific expertise, specific methodology and, in some cases, specific facilities. They should be performed by appropriately trained investigators.

The EMA European Network aims

- to identify, co-ordinate and link together existing networks, existing national and Community initiatives and study centers in order to build the necessary competences at Community level,
- to ensure efficient, timely communication and exchange of information between networks,
- to be a source of information and expertise for health professionals,
- to provide a forum for scientific discussion related to pediatric clinical trials with all stakeholders, where necessary,
- to take account of Community and third country data,
- to help facilitate cooperation,
- to avoid unnecessary duplication of studies.

This network will

- provide a central source of information and expertise for industry
- contribute strengthening the foundations of the European Research Area in the context of Community Framework Programs for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities
- benefit the pediatric population

An implementing strategy was adopted on 26 January 2008 by the EMA management board.

<http://www.ema.europa.eu/pdfs/human/paediatrics/54352307en.pdf>

There are many advantages to joining the network:

- Be visible as a potential site for externally sponsored clinical trials
- Be at the forefront of medicinal development
- Be consulted for your expert opinion when pediatric investigation plans in your field of expertise are discussed and developed.
- Share the skills and expertise of other national and European networks
- Shape and influence future development in pediatric research

Joining the network is easy:

- Contact us with your details via **enprema@ema.europa.eu**

Contact details will allow the EMA to set up an initial mailing list of networks, who will be invited for an implementation meeting to be held at the EMA in London, planned for February 2009.

The meeting will

- discuss and agree mandate and objectives
- define scientific and operational quality standards and recognition criteria
- implement coordinating group