

WSMI publishes new booklet on 'Prescription to Nonprescription Medicines SWITCH'

October 2009. Ferney-Voltaire (France). The World Self-Medication Industry has launched a booklet on "Prescription to Nonprescription Medicines Switch".

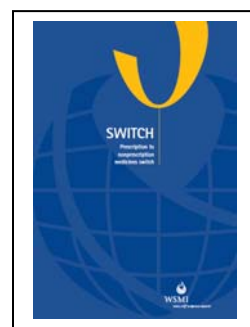
'Switching' is the conversion of safe and effective prescription medicines to nonprescription status. Switching more products to nonprescription status increases access to safe and effective medicines which patients can use without always having to go to a healthcare professional.

This empowerment of individuals in managing their own health will become more and more important as better self-care is essential to prevent the coming global epidemic of chronic non-communicable diseases.

Increased patient and consumer interest and knowledge about self-care and self-medication and years of safe experience in many countries with many ingredients provide a good basis for extending prescription to nonprescription switches. Indications suitable for self-treatment are expanding to the arena of longer term use, chronic conditions and situations in which an initial diagnosis is made by a doctor.

Switches can be undertaken most effectively where industry, government and healthcare professionals work together to provide the information and support that patients and consumers need to make informed decisions for self-care and self-treatment options.

The booklet is structured in five sections. After reviewing the history of switch worldwide (section I), the booklet moves on to a presentation of the public health aims and benefits of switches (section II) and then to the central question of the indications, or conditions, that are likely to be considered for self-medication in the future (section III). The following section reviews the necessary country conditions for switching (section IV) before addressing some of the key switch-related regulatory issues (section V). The booklet would be of interest to anyone involved in healthcare policy, in particular in nonprescription products' regulation.



The booklet is available in English and in Spanish.

The pdf files are available from WSMI's website: www.wsmi.org/publications.htm.

A hard copy can be obtained from: admin@wsmi.org.

Contact: Mrs Sophie Durand-Stamatiadis. Tel: + 33 4 50 28 47 28. E-mail: admin@wsmi.org.