

New drugs: T-score for transparency

Access to information about drugs is essential for the quality use of medicines. Pharmaceutical companies and regulatory agencies, such as the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), hold large quantities of information about individual drugs, but do not always share this information. To encourage transparency, *Australian Prescriber* rates companies' willingness to provide clinical information about new drugs. Table 1 shows how the companies have performed between January 2009 and December 2010.

The TGA is now publishing Australian Public Assessment Reports (AusPARs) for prescription medicines. While the Editorial Executive Committee welcomes this move to greater transparency, it will still ask companies to provide the clinical evaluations for their new products. While there are similarities, the AusPAR may not include all the details found in the regulator's clinical evaluation.

For 2011, the T-score has been revised to include the AusPAR.

The revised T-scores will be as follows:

- T T T** manufacturer provided complete clinical evaluation
- T T** manufacturer provided additional useful information
- T** manufacturer provided the AusPAR and/or the product information
- X** manufacturer declined to supply data
- X** manufacturer did not respond to request for data

Table 1

Pharmaceutical company responses to requests for clinical evaluation data for drugs marketed Jan 2009 – Dec 2010

Company	Drug
T T T manufacturer provided clinical evaluation	
Amgen	denosumab
Ferring	degarelix
Pfizer	anidulafungin eletriptan
PharmaLink	cilostazol
Phebra	caffeine citrate
Roche	methoxy polyethylene glycol-epoetin beta tocilizumab
Sanofi Pasteur	H5N1 influenza vaccine
Shire	icatibant
Wyeth	methylnaltrexone
T T manufacturer provided additional useful information	
Abbott	omega-3-acid ethyl esters
Celgene	azacitidine
Commercial Eyes	melatonin
CSL	H1N1 influenza vaccine Japanese encephalitis vaccine
Eli Lilly	prasugrel

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Company	Drug
Genzyme	plerixafor
GlaxoSmithKline	pneumococcal polysaccharide conjugate vaccine
Merck Sharp & Dohme	rizatriptan
Orphan	nitisinone
Sanofi-Aventis	alfuzosin
Servier	agomelatine
UCB Pharma	certolizumab pegol
Wyeth	desvenlafaxine succinate
T manufacturer provided only the product information	
Actelion	miglustat
Baxter Healthcare	vaccinia smallpox vaccine
Bayer Schering	rivaroxaban
CSL	nebivolol
GlaxoSmithKline	dutasteride pazopanib
Hospira	clofarabine
Janssen-Cilag	doripenem
Merck Sharp & Dohme	etoricoxib sugammadex
Novartis	valsartan, amlodipine/valsartan, valsartan/hydrochlorothiazide daptomycin
Phebra	arsenic trioxide
Sanofi Pasteur	influenza seasonal vaccine
UCB Pharma	lacosamide
X manufacturer declined to supply data	
Boehringer Ingelheim	dabigatran etexilate
CSL	H5N1 influenza vaccine
CSL Bioplasma	human C1 esterase inhibitor
Ipsen	triptorelin embonate
Janssen-Cilag	etravirine ustekinumab
Merck Sharp & Dohme	golimumab
Novartis	indacaterol vildagliptin
X manufacturer did not respond to request for data	
Alexion Pharmaceuticals	eculizumab
GlaxoSmithKline	ambrisentan H5N1 influenza vaccine