

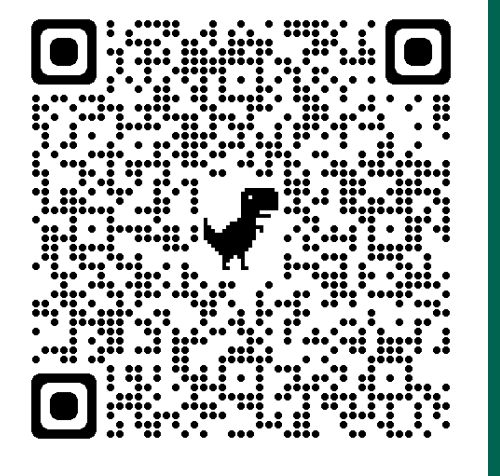
ADVANCING REGULATORY SCIENCES CLOSER TO THE PATIENT CARE SETTING: A COURSE DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

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WHAT WAS DONE?

The Malta Medicines Authority (MMA), through the MMA Academy for Patient Centred Excellence and Innovation in Regulatory Sciences, implemented a course intended for collaborative synergy with professionals in patient care settings. Strengthening regulatory intelligence may provide substantial return on investment for the ultimate benefit of patients.

WHY WAS IT DONE?

Regulatory science is not some detached activity performed in secluded offices but is applied by pharmacists as an integral part of their daily work, whether thought of as regulatory intelligence or not. This initiative endeavoured to offer educational intervention for streamlining a patient-centric culture and addressing gaps, whilst waning concerns regarding potential conflicts arising from regulator-stakeholder interactions.

HOW WAS IT DONE?

- In April 2023, the MMA Academy completed registration as a Further and Higher Educational Institution.
- An accredited 3-day course, leading to an Award in Basic Regulatory Sciences (Malta/European Qualification Framework Level 4), was launched across stakeholders.
- Twenty-four experts were engaged to deliver sessions on legislation, ethics, quality, information sources, digitalisation, pharmacovigilance, good practices, risk and avoiding victims of the system.
- Registrations were initially slow, owing possibly to the holiday season, increasing to maximal venue capacity following reminder mails and media posts.
- The course was delivered in September and feedback collected through a Likert scale evaluation exercise.

WHAT WAS ACHIEVED?

- Thirty participants (8 from public, 22 from private entities) completed the course successfully.
- All respondents to the course evaluation exercise (n=24) expressed satisfaction with course content and willingness to attend further courses.
- Promisingly, 92% of same respondents found the information presented relevant to their practice, anticipating performance improvement.
- Feedback included recommendation for future initiatives, particularly on regulatory oversight of aesthetic medicines services and integration of artificial intelligence in hospital pharmacy practices.
- A continuous educational needs exchange is encouraged for course development tailored to respective patient care settings.

WHAT NEXT?

Interest was expressed by the Health Department (Ministry for Health, Malta) to support eligible candidates for participation, auguring well for enhanced prospective engagement by clinical pharmacists and colleagues in state hospitals. This may also serve as example to other competent authorities. Going forward, the MMA Academy intends to invest in online provision to reach a wider audience through a virtual environment.



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Malta Life Sciences Park, San Ġwann

A three-day course for a strong and comprehensive foundation in basic aspects of regulatory sciences, invaluable for individuals working or aspiring to work in this field.

A networking forum for the dissemination of knowledge and best practices, supporting the delivery of pharmaceutical processes and services of excellence.

The MMA Academy is licensed as a Further and Higher Education Institution by the MFHEA
Licence Number: 2021-004

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for mutual benefit

Stakeholder engagement enables the identification of educational needs for the design and delivery of programmes that meet evolving demands and expectations

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