



Welcome dear colleagues to our 4<sup>th</sup> e-newsletter for the year 2025!

## In this Issue

MED-IN PHARMA | AWARD IN PHARMACEUTICAL DISTRIBUTION AUDITING | WEBINAR IN TESTING KITS UNBOXED | MED SAFETY WEEK 2025 | AMR WEEK | MMA EVENTS | EUROPEAN UPDATES | REGULATORY SCIENCES



**MedTech**  
World



### MED-IN Pharma



13 - 14 November



Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta



The IV edition of Med-In Pharma was organised by the MMA in collaboration with the Department of Pharmacy at the UoM and LESM.



Contributions from international professionals and local researchers provided insights into current developments and future directions in the pharmaceutical and regulatory landscape.



Expert presentations and panels addressed regulatory practice, medical device requirements, public health financing, quality and risk management and emerging technologies in pharmaceuticals.



Sessions delivered by international and local medical professionals and academics, focused on developments in oncological surgery, robotics, AI and minimally invasive metabolic procedures.

The conference was complemented by poster presentations and an oral communication session showcasing research related to innovative techniques, advancements in medical devices and medical technology and emerging trends across medicine, surgery, pharmacy, dentistry and applied sciences.

## AWARD IN PHARMACEUTICAL DISTRIBUTION AUDITING | OCTOBER

The MMA Academy for Patient-Centred Excellence & Innovation in Regulatory Sciences delivered a course on *Pharmaceutical Distribution Auditing* designed to equip participants with essential knowledge, practical skills and competencies for conducting effective audits within regulated pharmaceutical distribution environments.

The three-day course covered key areas including risk-based audit planning, conflict resolution, data integrity and regulatory preparedness, supporting continuous improvement and the safe distribution of medical products.



### Speakers

Dr Nonzio Bonello - *Microbiologist*

Mr Stan O'Neil - *The Compliance Group, Managing Director*

## WEBINAR IN TESTING KITS UNBOXED | DECEMBER



### Speakers

Prof Anthony Serracino-Inglott – *CEO, MMA*

Prof Charmaine Gauci – *SPH*

Dr Christopher Barbara – *Clinical Chairperson*

Dr Francesca Wirth – *Associate Professor*

Dr Louise Grech – *Director, Medical Devices, Pharmaceutical Collaboration & Entrepreneurship*

Mr Piero Costa - *Biomedical Engineer*

The webinar titled *Testing Kits Unboxed* delivered by the MMA Academy explored the expanding landscape of direct-to-consumer testing kits. Participants engaged in structured overview of analytical integrity, clinical integration and regulatory oversight. The presentations and panel discussion highlighted key public health considerations, the risks associated with non-compliant or poorly validated products and the evolving regulatory framework including preparedness for emerging technologies such as AI-enabled diagnostics.

The event attracted fifty (50) participants, including pharmacists, regulatory and quality specialists, medical doctors, medical students and genetic counsellors.

### MED SAFETY WEEK 2025 | NOVEMBER

Since 2018, the MMA has been actively participating in the MedSafetyWeek, a global social media campaign coordinated by the Uppsala Monitoring Centre. This initiative brings together organisations from one hundred eighteen (118) countries worldwide to raise awareness on the importance of reporting side effects. This year's campaign focused on the theme: *"How we can all help make medicines safer."*



Throughout the week, educational materials enhancing the importance of side effect reporting by healthcare professionals and patients were shared across social media platforms. These reports remain an essential tool for monitoring and improving the safety of medicines.

#### MMA Communication Channels



Stay up to date with  
regulatory updates, guidelines,  
news, and events

### WORLD ANTI-MICROBIAL RESISTANCE AWARENESS WEEK 2025 | NOVEMBER



The MMA actively supported the World Health Organisation's official health campaign (WAAW), which aims to enhance understanding of AMR and promote global action to combat the emergence and spread of drug-resistant pathogens. This year's theme *"Act Now: Protect Our Present, Secure Our Future"* emphasises that AMR is a shared responsibility among healthcare professionals, farmers, governments and the public.

The MMA contributed by promoting responsible antibiotic use through the engagement of social media contents, delivering clear messages and tips to empower everyone to play a key role in preserving antibiotic effectiveness.

Ginger reduces oxidative stress in the gut and promotes  
a healthier digestive environment!





## Pink October and Movember

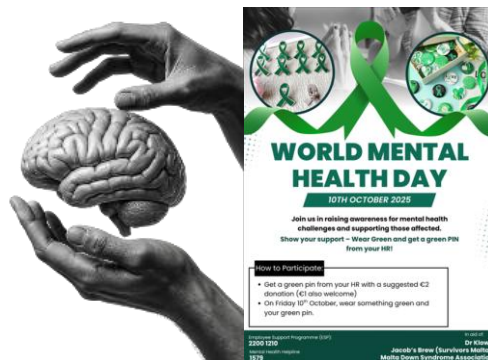
An insightful awareness session was held by Dr Matthew Spiteri from the HPDPD as part of our October initiatives. The session placed a spotlight on the importance of early detection, healthy living and self checks to save both women's and men's lives.



## World Mental Health Day

*Be kind to your mind*

In October, the MMA employees helped raising awareness regarding mental health challenges by wearing green clothing.



## End of the Year Staff Meeting

The End-of-Year Staff Meeting presented the MMA's accomplishments in 2025 and the upcoming initiatives for 2026. During the event, the CEO took the opportunity to express gratitude to all MMA employees for their contribution.

Recognition was given to the employees who have devoted 10 and 15 years of their career to the MMA. The event concluded on a light-hearted note with a team-building baking session, celebrating Christmas and strengthening connections among employees.



## Christmas Donations

Christmas donations are a wonderful opportunity to come together and bring joy to children and families in need, as well as our furry friends.

The MMA collected donations for:

- **Foodbank Lifeline Support Malta**
- **Abandoned Animal Association**
- **Toys for Tots**
- **Malta Community Chest Fund Foundation**
- **Puttinu Cares Foundation**



## Promoting safe and responsible use of GLP-1 medicines | OCTOBER

The EMA launched the social media campaign #HealthNotHype in collaboration for the first time with EU content creators. The campaign aimed to promote safe and responsible use of GLP-1 receptor agonists, originally for type-2 diabetes, now also approved for weight management in obesity and related conditions.

### Campaign Details

**Duration:** 1 month

**Main channel:** Instagram

**Interactive contents:** Quizzes and polls

**Overall reach:** 1,443,700 followers

*For more information  
scan the QR code*



## #ItTakesATeam – EU Medicine Shortages Campaign | NOVEMBER

The EMA together with healthcare professionals and consumer organisations, launched an EU-wide awareness campaign on medicine shortages. The initiative used videos, social media content and personal testimonies from across Member States to highlight the impact of shortages and promote coordinated action throughout the European Union.

### Key data on medicines shortages



*Learn more  
about  
#ItTakesATeam  
Campaign*



## Pharma Package – Building a Fair and Competitive EU Market | DECEMBER

The EC and EP reached a provisional agreement on the pharma package, a major reform of EU pharmaceutical legislation. The reform aims to ensure fair access to safe, effective and affordable medicines, while strengthening the competitiveness of the pharmaceutical sector by reducing regulatory burdens and improving supply security to prevent and manage shortages.

The agreement addresses four (4) key themes:



*Read the full text of the  
press release*



### Next steps

The agreement requires endorsement by the EC and EP before adoption and entry into force

## JAMS 2.0 WORK PACKAGES – WP 5: SIGNAL DETECTION AND VIGILANCE

The Joint Action for Reinforced Market Surveillance of MDs and IVDs (JAMS 2.0) is divided into eight (8) WPs, all contributing to the achievement of the objectives set out in the project through defined tasks.



### WP 5 – Signal detection and Vigilance

The WP5 consisted of two (2) workshops (WS2 and WS3) focusing on a comprehensive analysis of the information in the assessment reports based on the Manufacturer Incident Reports and the current application of International Medical Device Regulators Forum codes.



Technical discussions were held on the development of training materials for competent authorities, as well as on signal detection in medical device vigilance including definitions. The sessions covered key concepts such as data sources and signal handling. Participants were also given practical demonstrations focusing on the technical implementation of signal detection with the use of AI and statistical analysis.

**For more information  
visit the CAMD official  
website**



The workshops were led by experts from the MMA, AGES, BfArM, FAMHP and HPRA.



CELEBRATING ANOTHER YEAR OF

**COMMITMENT**

AND

**EXCELLENCE!**

**As we close this chapter, we extend our  
heartfelt appreciation for your  
dedication and hard work**

**May 2026 bring prosperity,  
success and joy to all  
Let's continue building a  
safer and healthier future  
together**



# ACRONYMS

**AGES** – Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety  
**AMR** – Antimicrobial Resistance  
**AI** – Artificial Intelligence  
**BfArM** – Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices  
**CA** – Competent Authority  
**CAMD** – Competent Authorities for Medical Devices  
**CEO** – Chief Executive Officer  
**EC** – European Commission  
**EMA** – European Medicines Agency  
**EP** – European Parliament  
**EU** – European Union  
**FAMHP** – Federal Agency for Medicines and Health Products  
**GLP-1** – Glucagon-Like Peptide-1  
**HPDPD** – Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Directorate  
**HPRA** – Health Products Regulatory Authority  
**IVD** – In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Device  
**JAMS** – Joint Action on Market Surveillance of Medical Devices  
**JA** – Joint Action  
**LESM** – Laparoscopic and Endoscopic Society of Malta  
**MD** – Medical Device  
**MMA** – Malta Medicines Authority  
**SPH** – Superintendent of Public Health  
**UoM** – University of Malta  
**WAAW** – World AMR Awareness Week  
**WP** – Working Package  
**WS** – Workshop