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New guidance on safe use of medicines and the management of clinical trials during the Covid-19 pandemic

- The European Medicines Agency (EMA) is issuing advice on the safe use of medicines during the COVID-19 pandemic and is continuously reviewing all available clinical evidence. Advice is available on:
  - non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medicines (NSAIDs) such as ibuprofen;
  - angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors and angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs, or sartan medicines).

- The Guidance on the management of clinical trials during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic has been updated covering safety reporting, the distribution of in-vitro diagnostics, medical devices and auditing; communicating with authorities, informed consent and the distribution of investigational medicines.

- The EMA has published guidance on the actions that sponsors of ongoing clinical trials affected by the COVID-19 pandemic should take to help ensure the integrity of their studies and the interpretation of study results while safeguarding the safety of trial participants as a first priority. This complements the good clinical practice guidance on how sponsors should adjust the management of clinical trials and participants during the pandemic. The draft is open for comments until 25 April 2020.

- The EMA and the European Network of Centres for Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacovigilance (ENCePP) encouraged all researchers to register their pharmaco-epidemiological studies related to the COVID-19 pandemic in the EU PAS Register.

- The EMA started issuing electronic certificates for medicines in place of paper certificates. This applies to all ongoing and future requests for certificates during the COVID-19 pandemic.