Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

Summary minutes: Inaugural IPI Steering Committee (12th August 2026)

Background

The Improving Patient Information (IPI) programme is an MHRA-led programme exploring how patients can be provided with better, more accessible and more effective information about their medicines.

The Steering Committee provides strategic oversight, expert advice and challenge to support delivery of the programme. Its membership brings together perspectives from across the UK healthcare system, including patient organisations, government, healthcare professionals and the medicines industry.

Summary of the discussion

- The meeting opened with a welcome from the Chair and introductions from Steering Committee members. Members discussed their perspectives and priorities for the IPI programme and emphasised that patient needs and patient safety should remain central to its development. There was broad support for a digital-first, but not digital-only approach, recognising the importance of accessibility and alternative provision for people who may face barriers to accessing digital information.
- The Committee discussed its role and governance arrangements. Members agreed that the Steering Committee would provide strategic oversight, challenge and expert advice, while formal policy, regulatory and financial decisions would remain within the appropriate MHRA governance structures. The Committee's Terms of Reference were agreed subject to minor amendments.
- Members received an update on progress across the IPI programme and its three principal areas of work. This included work to explore a trusted source of digital medicines information and appropriate digital standards; development of a proportionate framework for considering when paper patient information might be removed; and work to identify alternative ways of providing medicines information to people who may not be adequately served by digital provision.
- The Committee discussed the importance of ensuring that recommendations developed through the programme are evidence-based, proportionate and practically deliverable. Members highlighted the need to maintain a clear programme scope while recognising important interdependencies with wider healthcare and medicines initiatives.
- Members emphasised the importance of meaningful patient involvement throughout the programme. The Committee discussed approaches to strengthening patient input

across the programme and the importance of demonstrating how patient perspectives influence emerging recommendations and decisions.
- The Committee also considered stakeholder engagement and communications activity. Members discussed the importance of continued engagement across the four nations and with patients, healthcare professionals, industry and other stakeholders as the programme develops.
- The meeting concluded with a discussion of the programme's next steps. Future Steering Committee meetings will consider progress and emerging findings from across the programme.

Attendance

Julian Beach (Chair), Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)
Henrietta Hughes (Deputy Chair), Patient Safety Commissioner for England
Alpana Mair, Scottish Government
Amit Aggarwal, Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI)
Andrew Evans, Welsh Government
Claire Foreman, NHS England
Susan Grieve, Department of Health, Medicines Directorate
Michael Clarke, Medicines UK
Michelle Riddalls OBE, Proprietary Association of Great Britain (PAGB)
Sarah Tilsed, Patient Association
Tim Mitchell, Academy of Medical Royal Colleges
Tom Gentry, Age UK
Carly McGurry, MHRA
Smita Robinson, MHRA
Ed Palferman, MHRA
Hannah Thatcher, MHRA