

COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE

14TH AFIPA BAROMETER ON SELFCARE PRODUCTS

SELFCARE CONTINUES ITS PROGRESSION IN 2015 AS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Paris, January 22nd 2016 : Afipa (French Federation of the Pharmaceutical Industry for Responsible Self-Medication) presents the results of the 14th barometer on selfcare products, conducted in collaboration with OpenHealth¹

SELFCARE : A DYNAMIC SECTOR IN 2015 (+6.4% VALUE), A GENUINE BOOSTER FOR PHARMACIES

This growth occurs in all three selfcare categories : medical devices (+7% value), food supplements (+9.6% value) and self-medication medicine (+5.2% value). A good performance which demonstrates the increasing interest for this practice in France:

“Afipa acknowledges this growth with satisfaction : it clearly demonstrates that selfcare meets an increasing health care demand in France, by providing patients with both choice and autonomy” says Pascal Brossard, President of Afipa.

In 2015, **selfcare demonstrated that it was an essential pillar of the development of pharmacies, providing on its own a 37.2% increase of their activity.**

In view of such data, one must acknowledge that the development of selfcare boosts the economics of the pharmacy network and benefits patients by facilitating the way they deal with their benign illnesses.

THE SELF-MEDICATION MARKET IS GROWING BUT ITS FOUNDATIONS ARE FRAGILE...

The growth of self-medication is due to the numerous winter pathologies which occurred in early 2015, a period during which self-medication played a major role in regulating the health care system and led to major savings for the community of **approximately 75 million euros² on the cost of consultations which were avoided during the first 2015 quarter.**

“This upturn must not mask the lack of stability of the French self-medication market, as its growth mainly results from contextual elements such as a difficult winter. As an example, the low number of pathologies in 2014 had caused a -0.7% drop in the volume of self-medication. And end 2015, we can observe exactly the same phenomenon”, says Pascal Brossard.

... DUE TO THE LACK OF STRONG POLITICAL SUPPORT

Once again, the 2015 edition of the barometer reflects the dramatic lack of strategy and of political drive which hampers the sector. This situation is incomprehensible as the Minister of Health, Marisol Touraine, recently underlined the relevance of self-medication: *“Self-medication is a major asset for public health. Its accompanying support and training measures reinforce patient autonomy in dealing with benign pathologies”³.*

¹ Conducted on the Xpr-SO® OpenHealth panel, gathering 3004 pharmacies representing the French pharmacy network. Results in France (mainland, excluding Corsica). Data excluding sales with prescriptions. Indicators based on self-medication sales with pharmacist advice.

² OpenHealth source. Savings calculated on the respiratory tract segment, during the first quarter of 2015. This number does not take into account the savings on medicine reimbursement.

³ Response to written question n°86072 from Dominique Orliac, Member of Parliament of the Lot area.

2016, TIME FOR ACTION

Afipa is convinced of the merits of its action and of the economic and social potential of selfcare. It remains mobilised in spite of the politicians' wait-and-see approach and intends to act strongly to develop the sector.

It will therefore publish in March 2016 a manifest for the attention of all political decision-makers. This public document aims to focus our future health strategy on a model with increased justice and efficiency. In addition to reform proposals, this manifest will present new social and economic selfcare data.

The objective of this manifest is simple but vital: contribute to the sustainability of our health care system by proposing a different health care strategy, placing selfcare as first step of the health care process for benign pathologies.

Afipa is the professional federation representing the companies which produce and commercialise health care products available over-the-counter in pharmacies (self-medication medicine, medical devices and food supplements).

Almirall, Bayer Healthcare SAS France, Boehringer Ingelheim France, Boiron, Bouchara-Recordati, Diepharmex, Expanscience, Galderma, Laboratoires Genevrier, Gifrer Barbezat, Laboratoires Gilbert, GSK SGP, Hepatoum / Dermophil Indien, HRA Pharma, Ipsen Pharma, Johnson & Johnson Santé Beauté France, Labcatal, Laboratoires Lehning, Mayoly-Spindler, Meda Pharma, Merck Médication Familiale, Mylan Medical SAS (Abbott Healthcare SAS), Novartis Santé Familiale, Nutrition et Santé, Omega Pharma, Pfizer Santé Familiale, Pierre Fabre Santé, Procter & Gamble Pharmaceuticals France, Reckitt Benckiser Healthcare France, Sanofi-Aventis France, Semes S.A., Therabel, Laboratoires Tonipharm, UPSA SAS, Laboratoires Urigo, Weleda, Zambon France.

Consult Afipa on :

www.afipa.org

Twitter: @afipa

Responsible self-medication is the possibility for individuals to deal with their illness by taking self-medication medicine which is authorised, over-the-counter, safe and efficient in the use conditions indicated, with pharmacist advice (source: World Health Organization (OMS) year 2000).

CONTACTS

Sophie CHAMPAUD

01 56 77 16 18 – sophie.champaud@afipa.org

Sandra CODOGNOTTO

01 53 32 28 58 - codognotto@vianova-rp.com