



EUROPEAN UNION  
OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS/FAMILY PHYSICIANS  
UNION EUROPÉENNE  
DES MÉDECINS OMNIPRATICIENS/MÉDECINS DE FAMILLE



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY  
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

## WITHDRAWAL

- Caution needed – in general practice and primary care withdrawal means removing drugs from the patient (or side effects from not taking a medicine that causes dependence, e.g., benzodiazepines)
- For instance, opiate withdrawal with adverse effects (withdrawal symptoms) or de-prescribing (reducing drug burden) for elderly/frail patients
- **Withdrawal of drugs from the market because of change in risk/benefit ratio has little effect on shortages in primary care**
- Main cause of shortages is local/national supply problems
- **Advanced Warning, and guidance on alternative available drugs would be helpful**