

# Social networks, e-health, patients' communication and medicines: small talks, big data, information?

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EURORDIS



DIA



# Signal d



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## AIDS Treatment News August 15th, 1997

From [AIDS Treatment News](#)

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### Protease Inhibitors' Metabolic Side Effects

#### Cholesterol, Triglycerides, Blood Sugar, and "Crix Belly." Interview with Lisa Capaldini, M.D.

by John S. James

[In the last few months we have heard increasing anecdotal reports of a condition which has been named "Crix belly." People may gain 40 pounds or more of fat remarkably quickly in the lower abdomen, and there may also be some muscle wasting in the arms and legs. The cause is unknown. This problem was not seen before the use of [protease inhibitors](#); it is not known if it is associated primarily with [indinavir](#) (Crixivan(R)), for which it was named, or if it may be caused by other protease inhibitors as well. Nothing has been published so far.

people

: HIV)

- ▶ AIDS Treatment
- ▶ "Crix Belly"
- ▶ ATN: The Crix L
- ▶ Internet, has dis
- ▶ gaining 40 pound
- ▶ ("Crix" for Crixivan



# Anecdotal posts? Small talks? 20-40% of patients were experiencing this (late onset reaction after several years on treatment):

Fat loss



Fat loss, prominent veins



“Buffalo neck”

Figure 1) Left and right A 52-year-old human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)-1-infected man presented with a football-sized mass in the dorsal cervical area ('buffalo hump'). It had existed as a minor area of fullness for several years, but had dramatically increased in size over the preceding year, after the protease inhibitor indinavir was added to his antiviral regimen.



Belly

**Not seen in clinical trials,  
but during treatment with  
authorised combination  
therapies (post-  
authorisation)**

# Patients' posts used by regulators: whistle-blowers

- ▶ Patients' groups questioned regulators (FDA, EMA) and MAH
- ▶ 2/03/1999: "Oversight Committee for Metabolic Disorders of HAART" created by CHMP
  - 5 post-authorisation safety studies, conducted on a voluntary basis by industry
- ▶ CHMP 2005: benefit/risk of HAART unchanged despite increased cardiovascular risk
- ▶ PRAC update 2015: Updated advice on body fat changes and lactic acidosis with HIV medicines ([http://www.ema.europa.eu/docs/en\\_GB/document\\_library/Press\\_release/2015/10/WC500195982.pdf](http://www.ema.europa.eu/docs/en_GB/document_library/Press_release/2015/10/WC500195982.pdf))
- ▶ **But: it took months, maybe 1 year, from first patients' discussions on social networks to patients' representatives alerting regulators and then action**



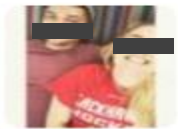
## ► Analysing social networks

# Social media analysis: Proto-SEs

Posts that could be about side-effects

1,5 millions proto-ES for 118 products monitored

(acquisition, filtering interesting posts, duplicate suppression, analysis, imputation)



[Redacted]  
@ [Redacted]



 **Follow**



Albuterol has me feeling all sorts of dizzy and weak this morning 🥵



6:21 AM - 17 Sep 2015



Asthenia

MedDRA: 10003549

ICD-10: R42

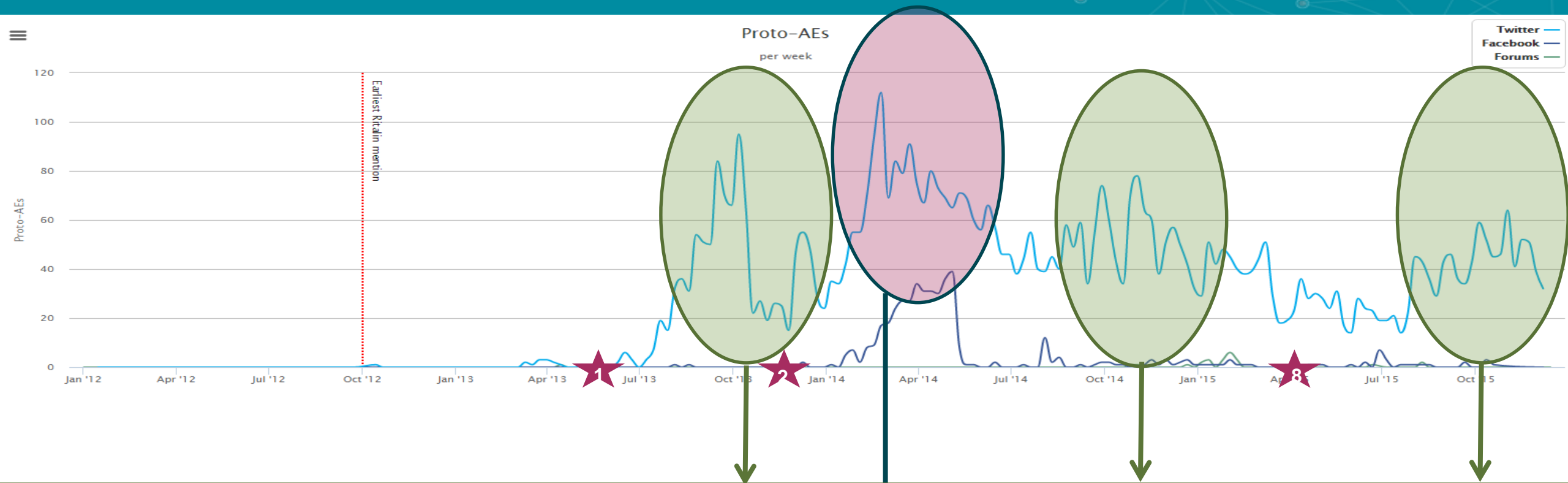


Dizziness

MedDRA: 10013573

ICD-10: R53

# Social media conversations on Ritalin over time



October → November – academic work, cold season, contributing to increase mentions

March → April – academic work contributing to increase



# Other projects in the field (1)

## Vigi4Med

To evaluate the utility of social media as a source of complementary information for pharmacovigilance

- Retrospectively for withdrawn medicines: did patients discuss safety issues before the regulatory decision?
  - Prospectively: can unexpected serious ADRs be detected?
- 
- Lardon J, Abdellaoui R, Bellet F, Asfari H, Souvignat J, Texier N, Jaulent MC, Beyens MN, Burgun A, Bousquet C. Adverse Drug Reaction Identification and Extraction in Social Media: A Scoping Review. J Med Internet Res. 2015 Jul 10;17(7):e171. doi: [10.2196/jmir.4304](https://doi.org/10.2196/jmir.4304)

# Other projects in the field (2)

## ADR-Prism

Can artificial intelligence help understanding what patients say when they discuss ADRs in social media?

- 3 years
- Posts in French “only” (284 Mio people 2015)
- Sandrine Katsahian et al. Evaluation of Internet Social Networks using Net scoring Tool: A Case Study in Adverse Drug Reaction Mining <http://person.hst.aau.dk/ska/MIE2015/Papers/SHTI210-0526.pdf>
- doi:10.3233/978-1-61499-512-8-526

**Evaluation of the time difference in detecting events in social media versus other sources (vigilance database)**

30% of side effects can be detected earlier in social media (up to 38 months earlier)

# Are users giving

And these  
are not  
health related  
information



Innovative Medicines Initiative WEB-RADR project:  
mobile technologies and social media as new tools in  
pharmacovigilance

*Report on the assessment of the relevant  
EU data protection legislation and  
regulatory guidance*

Figure 2:  
Snapshot  
disclosure  
coded at

Data from a panel of 5,076 Facebook  
Silent Listeners: The Evolution of F  
Fred Stutzman. Journal of Privacy

WEB-RADR: Recognising Adverse Drug Reactions

Working together to improve pharmacovigilance through new technology

# nces?

on Yearly  
ortions of  
re effects-  
t.

n 2005.

age, approximate date and location of hospitalization<sup>2</sup>, a match can be found in the health record dataset purchased from the state.

- 4 Within the electronic record is private patient information including: physician diagnoses, procedures and payment information.

1 Result for Raymond Boylston in WA

Raymond E Boylston

Soap Lake, WA 98851-1435

Age: 60-64

5



Raymond E. Boylston, the man identified in the news article, is linked to "anonymous record" #502855338.

#### MEDICAL RECORD

RECORD: 502855338

admitend: 10/25/11

STAYTYPE: 1

HOSPITAL: 162

COUNTYRES: 13

AGE\_MONTH: 725

ZIPCODE 98851

RACE\_WHT Y

ECodeA1 E816

ECodeA3

ECodeA5

3

4

Charges: \$71708.47

DescDIAG1

80843: closed fracture of other specified part of pelvis; pelv fx-clos/pelv disrupt

DescDIAG2

5185: pulmonary insufficiency following trauma & surgery; post traum pulm insuffic

DescDIAG3

86500: injury to spleen without mention of open wound into

1 - Boylston was 60 years old at the time of hospitalization (which the discharge record shows accurately-- 725 months). Boylston's age was inaccurately reported in the news article.

2 - Boylston was transported to Lincoln Hospital. He was treated at Providence Sacred Heart in Spokane.

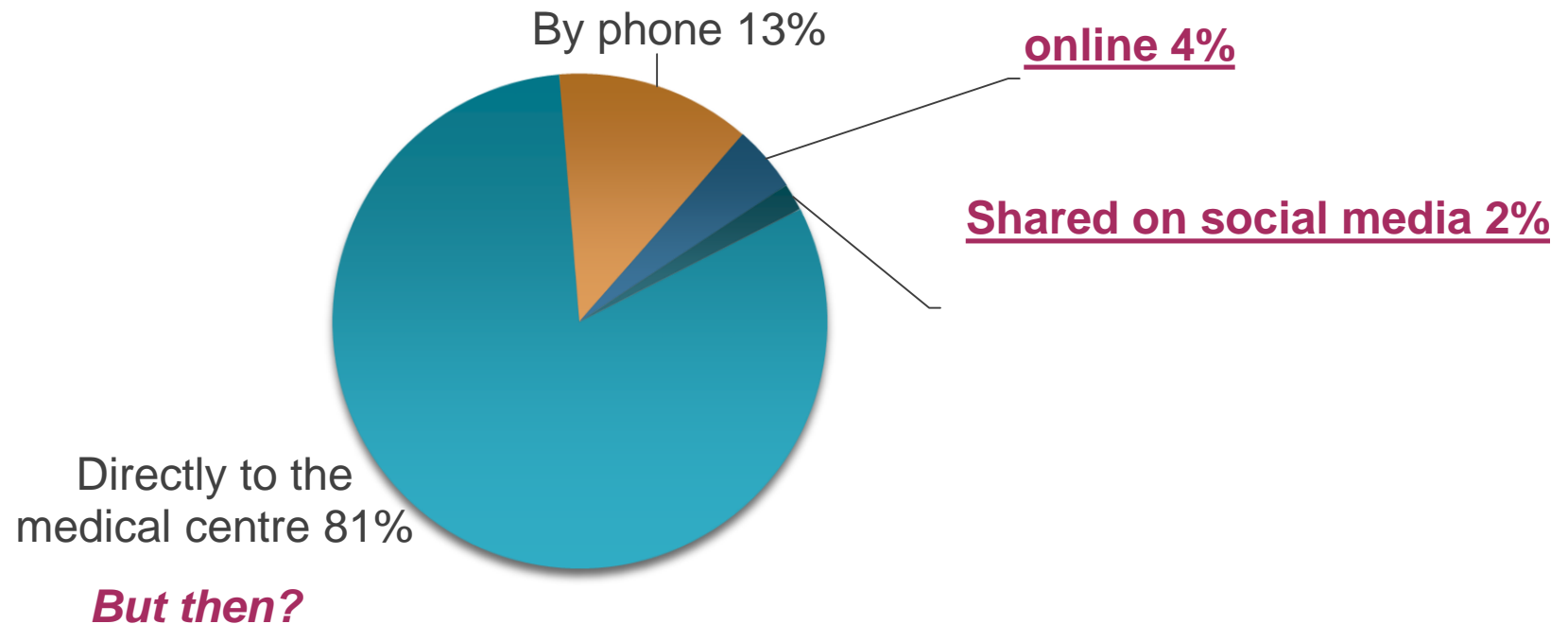
# Sharing info on side effects on social media: still an exception / a huge potential

**EURORDIS survey on Treatment Information in Rare Diseases 2016.**

**1,350 respondents on the use of medicines.**

**587 said they had a side effect, and 493 reported it.**

**How did they report?**





# Web-RADR: a mobile app to report ADRs

## Apple App Store and Google Play

### ► Yellow Card 14/07/2015

- Great Britain 90 reports received (59 from professionals, 31 from patients)

### ► Lareb 29/01/2016

- Netherlands, 2 500 uploads
- 52 reports received, (19 from professionals, 33 from patients)
  - Of which 1 signal

### ► Halmed April 2016

- Croatia
- With OMS Vigiflow

### ► Zambia, Burkina Faso 2017



# Current functions of the Web-RADR app

## Key features of the mobile app

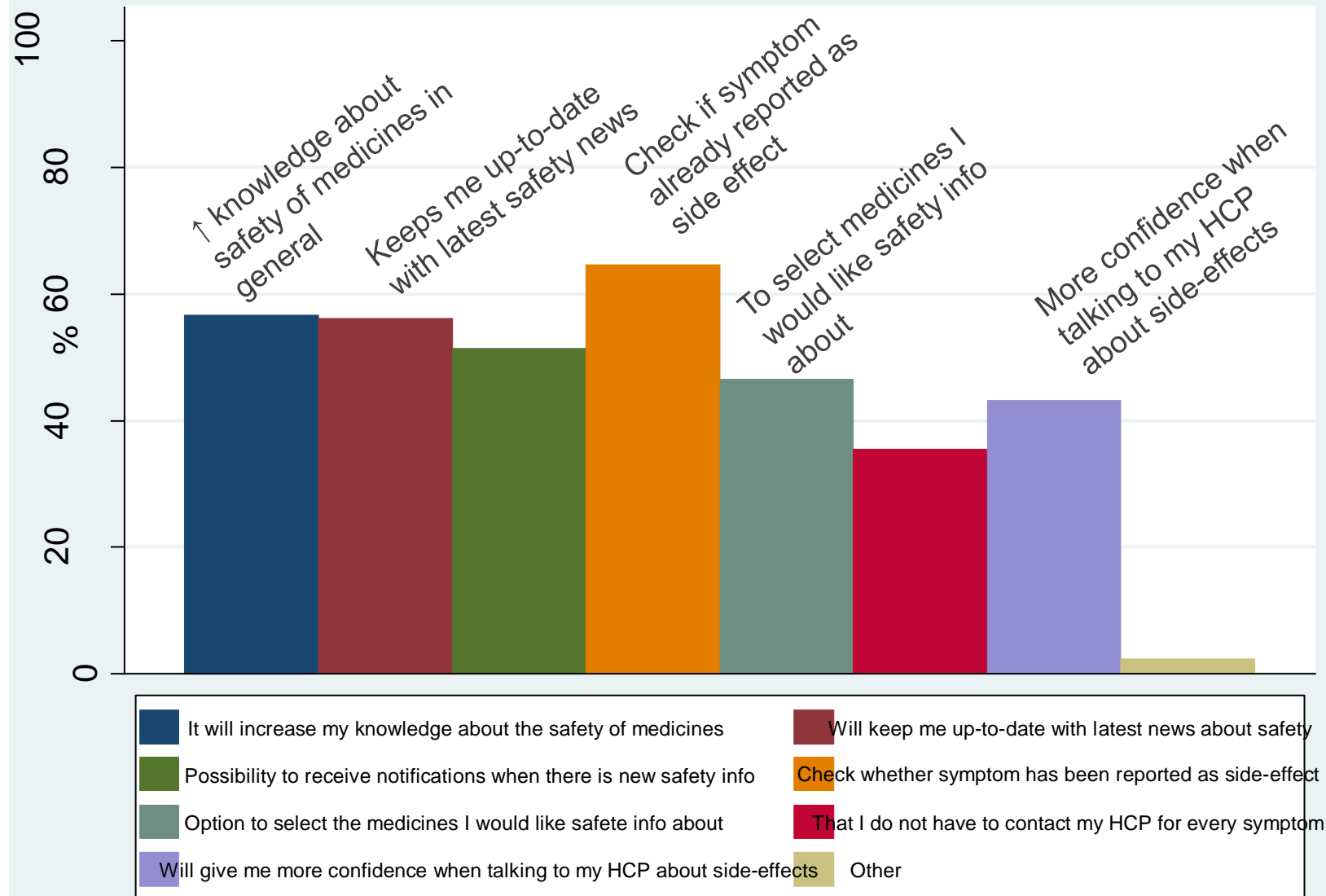
- Report a suspected ADR to an NCA

And:

- Read generic safety news directly from NCA
- Read news tailored to Watch List
- View graphs of ADRs submitted to the NCA for any product
- View a summary of submitted reports
- Save an ADR report to submit later
- Save a product to Watch List
- In-app notifications



# Information-related benefits: Patients



What are the likely benefits for you in using an app to receive safety information?

Web-RADR user-based evaluation amongst 636 patients, May-September 2016

Peter Mol and WP3B team



**Web-RADR: establishing a two-way communication between patients and regulators**



**Research on the utility of social media analysis is only starting (there is more than we think)**



**Web-RADR can test how the info from social media can be used by regulators**



**Governance and access to more confidential data will determine ultimate success**

# Ask





# Possible functions for an app to report ADRs

Need for a  
choose  
preferred



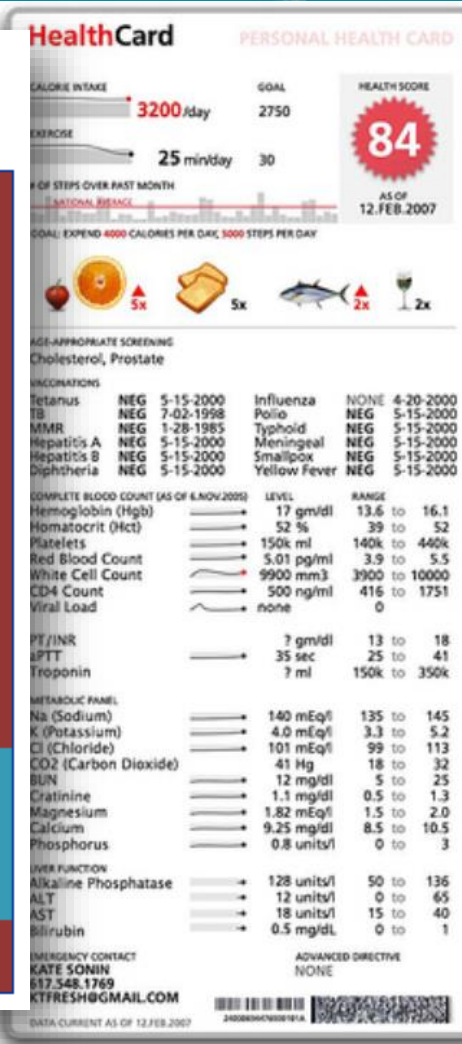
WEB-RADR

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Working together to improve pharmacovigilance through new technology



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# Do you want the Web-RADR mobile app in your country?

## Aside changing language, colors, and UI...

- Specific fields from NCA's database that may not be standard E2B fields
- Specific E2B codes for reporter qualification
- Choice to activate MedDRA coding functionality for ADRs and indication
- Country-specific product list
- Method for updating News Feed (e.g., RSS)
- Method for updating product information graphs (flat file or API)
- Connectivity with competent authority
- Specific format (JSON, XML) and validation rules for submitting the report to NCA (Json, xml)
- How much does it cost?
- Who will fund these developments when Web-RADR is over?