Supplementary Material 1

**Table S1 Work experience and frequency of dispensing stratification**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | **Total** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | ***Age group (years)*** | | | | ***Work experience (years)*** | | | | | **Dispensing (Y/N)** | | |
| | ***≤30*** | ***31-40*** | ***41-50*** | ***>50*** | ***0-5*** | ***6-10*** | ***11-20*** | ***21-30*** | ***>30*** | **Y** | **N** | |
| ***Participants, N*** | ***77*** | ***27*** | ***90*** | ***27*** | ***66*** | ***68*** | ***66*** | ***57*** | ***10*** | ***145*** | ***122*** | ***267*** |
| | ***Reading of the DHPC [n (%); total, 103 responses]*** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes, fully | *9* | *19* | *2* | *11* | *6* | *16* | *19* | *20* | *5* | 37 | 29 | 66 (64.1) |
| Yes, partially | *4* | *8* | *9* | *1* | *3* | *5* | *6* | *8* | - | 13 | 9 | 22 (21.4) |
| No | *3* | *9* | *2* | *1* | *4* | *4* | *6* | *1* | - | 9 | 6 | 15 (14.6) |
| Total | *16* | *36* | *38* | *13* | *16* | *25* | *31* | *29* | *5* | 59 | 44 | 103 |
| | ***Reading of the EMs [n (%); total, 74 responses]*** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes, fully | *9* | *14* | *22* | *9* | *6* | *12* | *16* | *16* | *4* | 30 | 24 | 54 (73.0) |
| Yes, partially | *1* | *10* | *7* | *2* | *1* | *6* | *6* | *6* | *1* | 11 | 9 | 20 (27.0) |
| No | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 20 | - |
| Total | *10* | *24* | *29* | *11* | *7* | *18* | *22* | *2* | *5* | 41 | 33 | 74 |
| | **Noticed the QR code on the secondary package [n (%); total, 267 responses]** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | *63* | *80* | *64* | *25* | *53* | *61* | *56* | *54* | *8* | 135 | 97 | 232 (86.9) |
| No | *14* | *10* | *9* | *2* | *13* | *7* | *10* | *3* | *2* | 10 | 25 | 35 (13.1) |
| Total | *77* | *90* | *73* | *27* | *66* | *68* | *66* | *57* | *10* | 145 | 122 | 267 |
| | **Awareness of QR code leading to drug safety information and EMs [n (%); total, 267 responses]** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | *32* | *46* | *36* | *16* | *21* | *40* | *32* | *30* | *7* | **74** | **56** | 130 (48.7) |
| No | *45* | *44* | *37* | *11* | *45* | *28* | *34* | *27* | *3* | **71** | **66** | 137 (51.3) |
| Total | *77* | *90* | *73* | *27* | *66* | *68* | *66* | *57* | *10* | **145** | **122** | 267 |

**Abbreviations**: EMs, educational materials; n, number of participants; QR, quick response; VPA, valproate;

**Table S2 Age group and work experience stratification – PPP compliance**

| | **PPP ADHERENCE CRITERIA (n, 145 participants who dispensed VPA during the past 12 months)** | | | | | | | | | **Total** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | ***Age group (years)*** | | | | ***Work experience (years)*** | | | | | |
| | ***≤30*** | ***31-40*** | ***41-50*** | ***>50*** | ***0-5*** | ***6-10*** | ***11-20*** | ***21-30*** | ***>30*** | |
| | **USE OF EMs** | | | | | | | | | |
| | *How often do you use the EMs when dispensing VPA?** *Total, 145 participants who dispenced VPA during the past 12 months* | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Participants, N*** | ***45*** | ***49*** | ***35*** | ***16*** | ***36*** | ***39*** | ***35*** | ***30*** | ***5*** | **145** |
| At every dispensing | 7 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 22 (15.2) |
| Only sometimes | 26 | 31 | 22 | 10 | 23 | 23 | 18 | 23 | 2 | 89 (61.4) |
| Never | 12 | 14 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 11 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 34 (23.4) |

| | *What type of EMs do you use during counseling patient using VPA*<br>*Total, 111 responses – excluding the 34 participants who never use EMs* | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Participants, N*** | ***33*** | ***35*** | ***30*** | ***13*** | ***28*** | ***28*** | ***24*** | ***28*** | ***3*** | **111** |
| Patient guide | 6 | 9 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 6 | 8 | - | 29 (26.1) |
| Patient card | 6 | 2 | 4 | - | 5 | 2 | 3 | 2 | - | 12 (10.8) |
| Risk acknowledgment form | 3 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 19 (17.1) |
| HCP guide | 24 | 27 | 19 | 8 | 19 | 21 | 18 | 18 | 2 | 78 (70.3) |
| | *How often do you offer the patient card and counsel on the same when dispensing VPA?*<br>*Total, 111 responses – excluding the 34 participants who never use EMs** | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Participants, N*** | ***33*** | ***35*** | ***30*** | ***13*** | ***28*** | ***28*** | ***24*** | ***28*** | ***3*** | **111** |
| At every dispensing | 7 | 5 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 26 (23.4) |
| Only sometimes | 13 | 21 | 16 | 3 | 10 | 19 | 11 | 12 | 1 | 53 (47.7) |
| Never | 13 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 12 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 32 (28.8) |
| | *What is the reason behind not using EMs for counseling patients using VPA?*<br>*Total, 34 responses who never use EMs* | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Participants, N*** | ***12*** | ***14*** | ***5*** | ***3*** | ***8*** | ***11*** | ***11*** | ***2*** | ***2*** | **34** |
| Not available in pharmacy | 10 | 10 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 27 (79.4) |
| Not familiar with the EMs | 5 | 4 | - | - | 3 | 4 | 2 | - | - | 9 (26.5) |
| Do not have the EMs at hand | 7 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 1 | - | 13 (38.2) |
| Not notified by the pharmacy dispensing system | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | - | 4 (11.8) |
| | *PATIENT COUNSELING* | | | | | | | | | |
| | *How often do you counsel the patient on the teratogenic risk associated with VPA use during pregnancy?**<br>*Total, 145 participants who dispenced VPA during the past 12 months* | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Participants, N*** | ***45*** | ***49*** | ***35*** | ***16*** | ***36*** | ***39*** | ***35*** | ***30*** | ***5*** | **145** |
| At every dispensing | 14 | 18 | 16 | 8 | 10 | 15 | 15 | 14 | 2 | 56 (38.6) |
| Only sometimes | 15 | 19 | 14 | 5 | 13 | 13 | 14 | 11 | 2 | 53 (36.6) |
| Only if the patient initiates a conversation | 10 | 10 | 4 | 2 | 10 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 26 (17.9) |
| Never | 6 | 49 | 35 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 1 | - | 10 (6.9) |
| | *How often do you emphasize the importance of effective contraception?**<br>*Total, 145 participants who dispenced VPA during the past 12 months* | | | | | | | | | |

| ***Participants, N*** | ***45*** | ***49*** | ***35*** | ***16*** | ***36*** | ***39*** | ***35*** | ***30*** | ***5*** | **145** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| At every dispensing | 11 | 15 | 14 | 7 | 8 | 14 | 10 | 13 | 2 | 47 (32.4) |
| Only sometimes | 14 | 19 | 13 | 6 | 11 | 14 | 14 | 10 | 3 | 52 (35.9) |
| Only if the patient initiates a conversation | 14 | 10 | 5 | 2 | 12 | 6 | 8 | 5 | - | 31 (21.4) |
| Never | 6 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 2 | - | 15 (10.3) |
| | *How do you proceed if a patient undergoing VPA treatment has an unplanned pregnancy?*<br>*Total, 145 participants who dispenced VPA during the past 12 months* | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Participants, N*** | ***45*** | ***49*** | ***35*** | ***16*** | ***36*** | ***39*** | ***35*** | ***30*** | ***5*** | **145** |
| Advise the patient to urgently consult their prescribing physician | 42 | 43 | 29 | 14 | 16 | 17 | 20 | 17 | 2 | 128 (88.3) |
| Counsel the patient regarding the teratogenic risk associated with VPA use during pregnancy | 19 | 22 | 15 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 60 (41.4) |
| Counsel the patient to continue treatment until the next visit to a physician | 11 | 9 | 12 | 2 | 9 | 10 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 34 (23.4) |
| | *Other recommendations offered during patient counseling*<br>*Total, 145 participants who dispenced VPA during the past 12 months* | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Participants, N*** | ***45*** | ***49*** | ***35*** | ***16*** | ***36*** | ***39*** | ***35*** | ***30*** | ***5*** | **145** |
| Remind the patient about the need to periodically evaluate their treatment (at least annually) | 30 | 40 | 25 | 11 | 26 | 29 | 26 | 23 | 2 | 106 (73.1) |
| Referred the patient to their treating physician because they were not using effective contraception | 18 | 16 | 16 | 8 | 13 | 17 | 12 | 11 | 5 | 58 (40.0) |
| Counsel the patient to access the QR code embedded on the secondary package of VPA medicinal products | 6 | 4 | 4 | - | 4 | 9 | 9 | 6 | - | 28 (19.3) |
| | *What do you think would facilitate patient counseling and PPP adherence when it comes to pharmaceutical practice in Romania?*<br>*Total, 144 participants who dispenced VPA during the past 12 months; optional question* | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Participants, N*** | ***45*** | ***49*** | ***34*** | ***16*** | ***36*** | ***39*** | ***34*** | ***30*** | ***5*** | **144** |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Availability of EMs in pharmacy | 13 | 15 | 7 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 40 (27.8) |
| More time available to dedicate to patient counseling | 10 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 6 | - | 27 (18.8) |
| Courses or training on using the EMs and the importance of counseling patients using VPA | 14 | 8 | 10 | 6 | 12 | 7 | 7 | 11 | 1 | 38 (26.4) |
| Remuneration of counseling | 5 | 16 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 11 | 8 | 1 | 32 (22.2) |
| | *PARTIAL DISPENSING* | | | | | | | | | |
| | *Do you generally open the secondary package to partially dispense the medicine?** *Total, 145 participants who dispenced VPA during the past 12 months* | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Participants, N*** | ***45*** | ***49*** | ***35*** | ***16*** | ***36*** | ***39*** | ***35*** | ***30*** | ***5*** | **145** |
| Yes | 39 | 39 | 29 | 13 | 33 | 30 | 29 | 23 | 5 | 120 (82.8) |
| No | 6 | 10 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 7 | - | 25 (17.2) |
| | Do you offer the patient card or a copy of the patient information leaflet when partial dispensing is employed? Total, 120 participants, excluding the 25 participants who did not report partial dispensing* | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Participants, N*** | ***39*** | ***39*** | ***29*** | ***13*** | ***33*** | ***30*** | ***16*** | ***13*** | ***3*** | **120** |
| Yes | 12 | 13 | 14 | 6 | 9 | 10 | 13 | 10 | 3 | 45 (37.5) |
| No | 27 | 26 | 15 | 7 | 24 | 20 | 16 | 13 | 2 | 75 (62.5) |

**Abbreviations**: EMs, educational materials; n, number of participants; PPP, pregnancy prevention programme; QR, quick response; VPA, valproate; Y/N, yes/no