



Pharmaceuticals in the environment

Make ideas work!

## Dutch approach

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# Why a national approach?

- Residues of human and veterinary pharmaceuticals in the environment.
- Ecological effects (ecotox., sex change, behavioral changes are known).

Problem gets bigger in context of:

- Ageing population
- Changing climate (low flow water conditions)
- Antimicrobial resistance

EU developments:

Initial proposal of three pharmaceuticals on priority substances list (now watchlist) and European strategic approach on

pharmaceuticals in the environment

## What do we do (1)

- Part of the approach is a **common** understanding of the (**urgency of**) the problem with all stakeholders involved
- Work **jointly** on possible solutions in the chain (development and authorisation; prescription and use; disposal; (urban) waste water treatment):
  - Development 'green pharmacy' lengthy process and possibly not that effective(?)
  - Improvement of Environmental Risk Assessment (for 'old' products and also post authorisation) and accessibility of results of ERA preferably at EU level.
  - Prescription of pharmaceuticals that are less harmful for the environment?
  - Pilots on taking environment effects in account at the selection of X-ray contrast media in hospitals and mitigation measures (e.g. urine bag)

## What do we do (2)

- Facilitate municipalities and pharmacists with guidelines for the collection of unused medicines

(Urban) waste water treatment:

- Projects at several hospitals, now 5 hospitals with Pharmafilter-concept.
- Research on waste water treatment methods e.g. project Schone Maaswaterketen
- Hot spot analysis urban waste water treatment plants to prioritize for a decision on future measures at urban waste water treatment plants

## What are the challenges

- Although the pace differs a bit between different stakeholders, a common sense of urgency is developing
- The water sector doesn't want to be responsible for the only solution
- Communication: we don't want to forbid certain pharmaceuticals
- Not everything can be done at a national level, improvement of Environmental Risk Assessment (also post authorisation) and accessibility of results of ERA should be done at EU level.



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Health Care Without Harm Europe

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