Pharmaceuticals in the environment

Evaluating our impacts

We aim to lead our industry in understanding and mitigating the environmental fate and effects of PIE. As a minimum, we are committed to ensuring effective environmental management of our products from pre-launch through to product end-of-life. To do this we:

Assess the environmental risk of our medicines to support drug marketing authorisations

Make our ERA data and safe discharge standard concentrations visible on our web pages

Set safe discharge standards and actively manage the environmental risks associated with the APIs discharged from our manufacturing operations and supply chain

Conduct ecopharmacovigilance (EPV) to review emerging science, looking for new information that might change the way we assess the environmental risks associated with our APIs

Revise our safe discharge limits and ERAs if reliable data justifies a change in our environmental protection goals. This helps to ensure that we have up-to-date, science-based targets to help ensure the environmental safety of our products

Form effective partnerships and co-sponsor research to fill scientific gaps to understand and mitigate the risks of PIE

Collaborate with industry, government and other stakeholders to manage environmental risk across the product life cycle, including efforts to improve medicine disposal programmes and education

20 years of PIE leadership

1998

AstraZeneca publishes its first paper on PIE, describing reproductive effects in fish

2003

AstraZeneca reviews the environmental risks of its APIs

2004

AstraZeneca Operations supports the development and roll-out of a safe discharge programme

2011

AstraZeneca rolls out its safe discharge programme to suppliers

2012

AstraZeneca is the first company to publish (i) its ERA data on its webpage and (ii) its approach to safe discharges and associated safe limits

2013

AstraZeneca launches and publishes its approach to EPV

2015

AstraZeneca partners in the IMI iPiE project, to develop predictive tools to identify environmental risks of medicines

2018

AstraZeneca leads calls for innovation, using artificial intelligence approaches in environmental toxicology