Abbreviations and Acronyms

A list of abbreviations and acronyms found in the field of, or connected with, pharmacovigilance.

ACSoMP	Advisory Committee on Safety of Medicinal Products (WHO)
ACT	Artemisinin-based combination therapy
ADE	Adverse drug event/effect
ADR	Adverse drug reaction
AEFI	Adverse event following immunisation
AEMPS	Agencia Española de Medicamentos y Productos Sanitarios *(Spanish Medicines and Healthcare Products Agency)*
ANSM	Agence nationale de sécurité du médicament et des produits de santé, France (*has replaced AFSSAPS)*
API	Active pharmaceutical ingredient (WHO)
ART	Antiretroviral therapy
ARV	Antiretrovirals
ATC	Anatomical, Therapeutic, Chemical classification
BCPNN	Bayesian Confidence Propagation Neural Network
BfArM	Bundesinstitut für Arzneimittel und Medizinprodukte *(Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices in Germany)*
BMA	British Medical Association
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CEM	Cohort Event Monitoring
CEN	Centre Européen de Normalisation *(the European Committee for Standardization)*
CHMP	Committee on Medicinal Products for Human use (EU), previously CPMP
CIOMS	Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences
CRO	Contract research organisation *(often responsible for clinical trials)*
DDD	Defined Daily Dose
DIA	Drug Information Association
DSRU	Drug Safety Research Unit, Southampton, UK
DTC	Direct to consumer
DTP	Direct to patient
EEA	European Economic Area
EMA	European Medicines Agency
ENCePP	European Network of Centres for Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacovigilance
EU	European Union
E2B	The current international standard for ADR reporting developed by ICH
FDA	Food and Drug Administration *(USA regulatory body)*

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FIC	(WHO) Family of International Classifications
FIP	International Pharmaceutical Federation
FOI	Freedom of information
FTP	File transfer protocol
GACVS	Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety (WHO)
GCP	Good clinical practice.
GF	Gates Foundation *(full name Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation)* or Global Fund *(see also GFTAM)*
GFATM	Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
GLP	Good laboratory practice For example: *www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/testing/goodlaboratorypracticeglp.htm*
GMP	Good manufacturing practice For example: *www.who.int/medicines/organization/qsm/activities/qualityassurance/gmp/orggmp.shtml*
GVSI	WHO Global Vaccine Safety Initiative *www.who.int/vaccine_safety/initiative/en*
GxP	generic term for good practice requirements in the pharmaceutical industry
HAI	Health Action International *www.haiweb.org*
HATC	Herbal ATC
HIC	High income countries
HSA	Health Sciences Authority, Singapore
IC	Information Component (used in BCPNN) – Informed consent
ICD	International Classification of Diseases
ICDRA	International Conference for Drug Regulatory Authorities
ICH	International Conference on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use
ICSR	Individual case safety report
IMB	Irish Medicines Board
IMMP	The Intensive Medicines Monitoring Programme, New Zealand
IMS	Not an acronym. Company providing statistics and information in the health care sector
INN	International non-proprietary names *(for pharmaceutical substances)*
IPCS	International Programme on Chemical Safety *www.who.int/pcs*
ISO	International Organization for Standardization *www.iso.org*
ISoP	International Society of Pharmacovigilance *www.isoponline.org*
ISPE	International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology *www.pharmacoepi.org*
JPMA	Japan Pharmaceutical Manufacturer's Association
Lareb	Netherlands Pharmacovigilance Foundation *(Landelijke Registratie en Evaluatie van Bijwerkingen)*
LMIC	Low- and middle income countries
MAH	Market authorisation holder

MedDRA	Medical Dictionary for Drug Regulatory Affairs
MHRA	Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (UK)
MSH	Management Sciences for Health
MSSO	Maintenance and Support Services Organization *(for MedDRA)*
MSF	Médecins Sans Frontières
NC	National centre (for pharmacovigilance)
NCE	New chemical entity
NDA	New Drug Application
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NME	New molecular entity
NRA	National regulatory authority
NSAID	Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug
OTC	Over-the-counter
PCC	Poison Control Centre
PDR	Physician's Desk Reference
PDS	Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety (journal)
PEM	Prescription event monitoring
PEPFAR	US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
PHRMA	Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association
PIL	Package insert leaflet
PMDA	Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency, Japan
PMS	Post-marketing surveillance
POM	Prescription only medicine
PPI	Proton Pump Inhibitor
PRAC	Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (EMA)
PSM	Procurement and supply management
PSUR	Periodic safety update report
PV	Pharmacovigilance
QA	Quality Assurance
QSM-WHO	Quality Assurance and Safety of Medicines (WHO)
RCA	Root-cause analysis
SFDA	State Food and Drug Administration, China
SMQ	Standardized MedDRA Query
SOC	System organ class
SOP	Standard operating procedure
SPC	Summary of product characteristics *(in the EU)*
SSFFC	Substandard/Spurious/Falsely-Labelled/Falsified/Counterfeit (SSFFC) Medical Products (WHO)

SSRI	Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor *(group of anti-depressants)*
TGA	Therapeutic Goods Administration, Australia
THIN	The Health Improvement Network, UK. A medical research database of anonymized patient records from general practitioners
TSR	Targeted spontaneous reporting
UMC	the Uppsala Monitoring Centre *www.who-umc.org*
UNITAID	*Not an acronym.* Organization cooperating with WHO and others on the WHO millennium goals
VAERS	Vaccine adverse event reporting system
WAHO	West African Health Organization
WHO	World Health Organization *www.who.int*
WHO-ART	WHO Adverse Reaction Terminology
WHO-CC	WHO Collaborating Centre
WHO-DD	WHO Drug Dictionary
WHO-DDE	WHO Drug Dictionary Enhanced
XML	Extensible Mark-up Language

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