How does Viatris work to limit the impact of pharmaceuticals in the environment?

The primary pathways for pharmaceuticals entering the environment from human use are by normal patient excretion, improper disposal of medicine by consumers, and the use of pharmaceuticals in agriculture and livestock. A significantly smaller contribution stems from emissions resulting from the pharmaceutical manufacturing process.

While gaps remain in the scientific link between pharmaceuticals in the environment (PiE) and human health risks, we are committed to reducing pharmaceuticals discharged from our manufacturing operations. Our approach to addressing and minimizing the potential impact of PiE from our own manufacturing is based on a wide range of activities and governance:

- Risk and Impact Evaluation
- Risk Reduction and Control
- Engagement and Policy

Through our Global EHS Management System, we have implemented a new program and technical requirement regarding pharmaceuticals in the environment. Viatris conducts qualitative manufacturing effluent risk assessments to determine the appropriate level of control measures needed for manufacturing to protect the environment from releases of pharmaceutical ingredients. Meanwhile, we are expanding our quantitative manufacturing effluent risk assessments to other product classifications beyond previously completed antibiotic assessments. Viatris has established a prioritization scheme to help drive the progression of these assessments from a high- to low-risk basis.

Key Principles in Responsible Effluent Management

- Compliance with applicable company standards and regulatory requirements
- Implementation of defined sound wastewater management programs that are based on risk management and good engineering principles
- Utilizing published/industry API-specific discharge targets based on safe concentrations in the receiving surface waters (PNECs)
- Conducting manufacturing effluent risk assessments of wastewater containing API at our manufacturing locations; if a risk is identified, implement appropriate additional controls to mitigate the risk to an acceptable level

We are active participants in several trade association working groups with a focus on responsible effluent management and appropriate disposal of unused medicine. We also collaborated in the launch of the first environmental manufacturing standard for antibiotics.