



LETTER OF ANNOUNCEMENT
Expiry Date Mismatch

8th April 2019

Dear all,

EMVO is contacting all OBPs in relation to expiry dates being uploaded to the EMVS which are different than those encoded in the Data Matrix Code on packs.

All OBPs must ensure that the representation of the expiry date in the Data Matrix Code printed upon the pack is identical to that which is loaded to the EMVS via the EU Hub.

To give an example, when 240800 (where the GS1 day (DD) element is being reported as 00), then 240800 must be loaded into the EMVS. If this process is not done as described above, and if there is a mix between the two, **an attempt to decommission or verify the pack will generate an alert; according to EMVS User Requirement Specification.**

In the first weeks of the Operational Phase, EMVO and the NMVOs witnessed that some OBPs encoded YYMM00 in the Data Matrix Code and upload YYMM31 (the last day of the month) in the EMVS. This is not correct and EMVO requests all OBPs to check if the expiry dates have been correctly uploaded. If this is not the case, EMVO requests that OBPs take corrective actions.

If your internal serialisation communication system cannot process DD="00" but your printing system can handle DD=00 resulting in you sending data to the EMVS that is not identical to that printed within the Data Matrix code, you should take immediate corrective action, for example by correcting the data via the help of EMVO Gateway. Further preventive action you may consider is to always print the last day of the month in the Data Matrix Code, which would avoid any data mismatch in the future.

Reducing false alerts is EMVO's top priority during the initial months of the Operational Phase of the EMVS; and currently a large number of alerts are being generated by this mismatching of expiry dates by OBPs. EMVO is therefore requesting that all OBPs be mindful of and act upon this guidance.

In the event of any question or uncertainty, please do not hesitate to contact our Helpdesk:

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EMVO Team

European Medicines Verification Organisation

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