

#### **Updates on e-Labeling in South Korea**

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Ministry of Food and Drug Safety



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- 1. Legislative Updates
- 2. E-labeling Pilot Project: 2023 Overview
- 3. Expanded E-labeling Pilot: 2024 Progress
- 4. Challenges and Future
- 5. MFDS Platform Integration







- Amendment to the Pharmaceutical Affairs Act (PAA)
  - Key provisions: article 56 and article 58 revised
  - Proposed on 6 Jan. 2023  $\rightarrow$  amended and <u>enforced on 2 Jan. 2024</u>
  - Summary of the amendment: Electronic provision of information through barcodes or equivalent means is permitted as a substitute for paper inserts for prescription drugs designated by the Minister of MFDS



# **Before the Pilot in 2023**



- E-labeling practically in use preceding the pilot project
  - Applied to COVID-19 vaccines according to special exemption
  - However, the explicit term 'e-labeling' was not used in the case

Pandemic to endemic: COVID-19 crisis level to downgrade from "Alert" to "Attention", the lowest tier effective <u>on 1 May 2024</u> in Korea



Pilot in 2023



- Participation of 10 companies (MAHs), 27 products (18 locally manufactured and 9 imported)
  - Products designated by MFDS among those applied for by interested MAHs
  - Anti cancer agents, X-ray contrast agents and anti-biotics, etc.
- Product selection limited to injections administrated by healthcare professionals within medical institutions
- Option to **retain** or **remove paper** inserts:
  - 6 products provided with both e-labeling and paper inserts, 21 products with elabeling only
- Contingency plans should be prepared to address unexpected disconnections

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### Pilot in 2023 – Example







- Access to up-to-date information
- Improved readability
- Keyword searchability
- Reduced carbon footprint





Carton height reduced to prevent vial movement within due to excess space

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Photos by Dong-A ST



Pilot in 2023 – Survey



- Despite low overall awareness levels (33%), users' satisfaction rates high (72.7%)
- HCPs showed higher expectation for benefits of e-labeling expansion compared to general consumers, while consumers favored more cautious and conservative approach
- Industry suggested expanding the scope of products under the pilot projects is necessary for a comprehensive evaluation of its effectiveness
  - include self-administrated prescription drugs such as self-administrating injections and inhalers, etc.



## **Expanded Pilot in 2024**



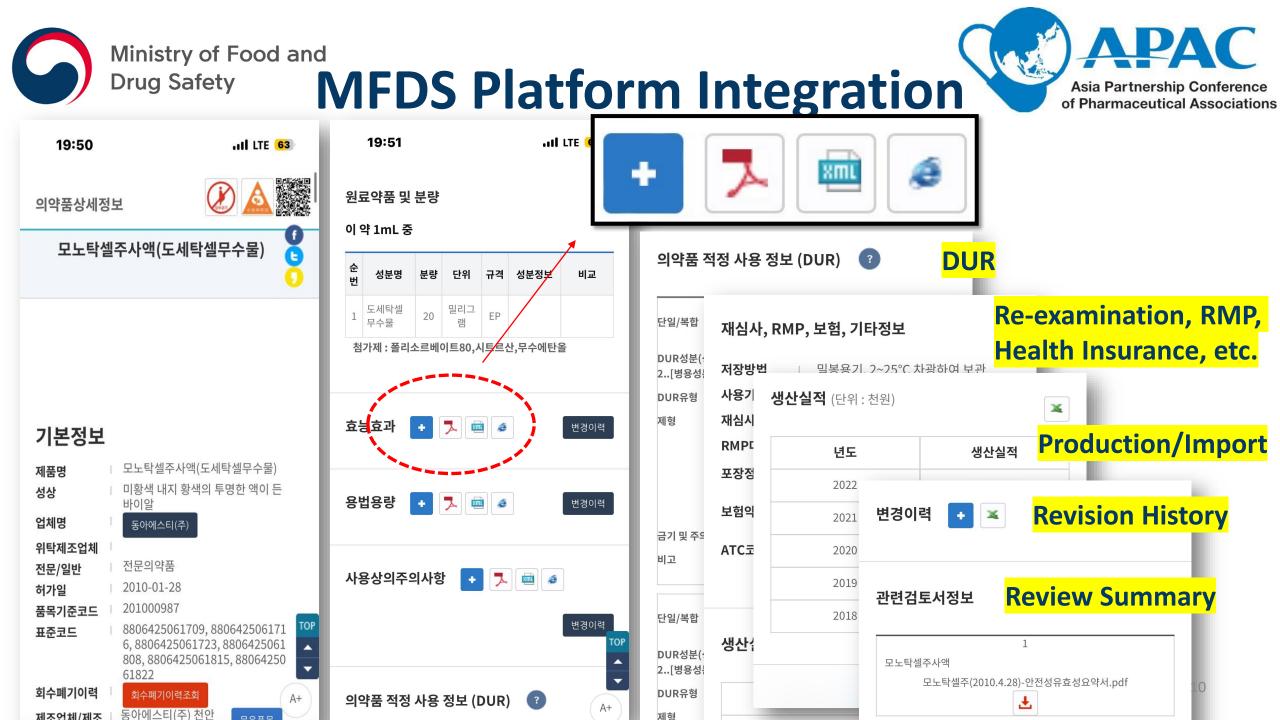
- Total of 109 products (from 27 MAHs), including 27 ongoing since 2023
  - Scope limited to injections administrated by healthcare professionals within medical institutions, consistent with 2023
  - Biopharmaceuticals newly included
  - With exclusions for products used in emergency and those (potentially) administrated outside medical institutions
- Option to either remove or retain paper inserts enclosed with products
- Platform by MAHs (vendors' platforms also allowed)
- XML formats and PDFs are both accepted

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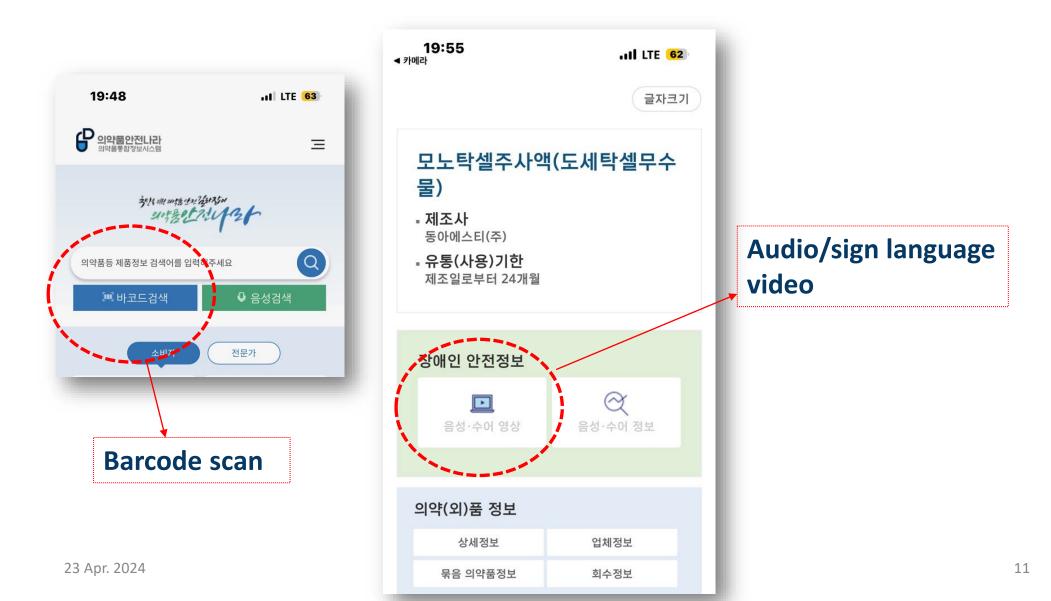
Drug Safetv



- More than 1 different barcodes/QR codes?
  - Codes for e-labeling
  - Codes for audio/sign language videos
  - Barcodes mandated by Ministry of Health and Welfare for distribution information
- Another amendment PAA mandates braille and codes for conversion into audio/sign language videos (enforced on 21 July 2024), initially focusing on commonly used OTC drugs
- Common platform for all (by MFDS'?) versus MAHs' own platform
- Prioritization of product types or categories for implementation



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- **Risk Management Plan (RMP) Materials (Pharmaceuticals):** ullet
  - Electronic provision of materials for HCPs and patients initiated since Mar. 2023
- **Cosmetics:** 
  - Pilot project launched on 25 Mar. 2024
  - Using platforms developed by individual companies
- Food:
  - Pilot project launched in 2022 and continues to expand; Preparing legislation
  - Using platform provided by MFDS





# Thank you for your attention!

