Fass.se
The Swedish Medicines Information Engine

Background

- The Swedish Medicines Compendium - since 1966
- 1973 – Fass Vet- All medicines for veterinary use
FASS database

- Uses National Medical Product Register (NMPR) as its 'backbone'
- NMPR is a database hosted by the Swedish MPA in cooperation with the Pharmaceutical Benefits Board, The National Corporation of Pharmacies and LIF (the pharma industry association)
- NMPR contains core information on medicines approved for use in Sweden (tradename, strength, route of administration, OTC/prescription, narcotic classification, packages, withdrawal date a.s.o.)
- Fass is updated with information from NMPR twice every hour.

FASS database cont.

- Core information from NMPR
- Detailed information added by the pharmaceutical companies through LIF:s web based administrative interface
- More than 160 companies are online with the database and update it daily
- Fass uses XML (extensible Markup Language) format – structured data offers an array of functions
1. Books in the FASS family
   - All books in the Fass family are printed directly from the database

2. Fass.se
   - The medicines portal is updated directly from the database. The participating companies have access to the database through a web based administrative interface

3. Medical Product Agency
   - The National Medical Products Register is imported from MPA to the Fass database.

4. Pharmaceutical Companies
   - Information regarding specific products is added to the database by each participating company. The companies can in addition use the information from Fass by transmitting and publishing it on their own web sites and this provides them with a simple means of publishing current information.
5. Prescribing systems
- Information from Fass database is conveyed to prescribing systems to ensure that the prescribing doctor has access to the latest product information

6. Ambulances
- Ambulances equipped with information systems can be updated through wireless networks. Customized information for ambulances is: identification of tablets/capsules, overdose treatment, ADR information…

7. Mobile phones, apps and hand-held computers
- Several suppliers have developed solutions for mobile phones and hand-held computers. LIF runs an official mobile version of Fass.se (mobil.fass.se)

8. Pharmacy Systems
- The pharmacies are provided with updated information to use in the dispensing of medicines. Pharmacies can also order Package inserts in Braille through Fass.se

9. Future functions

FASS.se – the website

- Over 4 million visits per month (Sweden’s population: 9.3 million)
- Free of charge
- Available 24/7
- Three different entrances: general public, health care and vets
- Accessible for all users – adapted for users with disabilities (first website in Sweden to obtain an accessibility certificate in 2002)
FASS.se content

- Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC) – human and veterinary
- Package inserts – human and veterinary
- Fass (text for the Medicine compendium for health care professionals)
- Fass Vet. (text for the Medicine compendium for veterinary use)
- Reimbursement status
- Packages and prices (for reimbursed medicines)
- Alerts on changes of product information (reasons for update and a classification of the importance of the update)
- Identification of tablets and capsules (collaboration between Denmark, Norway and Sweden)
- Treatment recommendations in case of overdose
- Information on research and development
- Medicines and the environment
- General ‘good-to-know’ about medicines, ADR:s, medicines and children, medicines and elderly, medicines and alcohol etc..
FASS.se policies

- Fass provides only product information approved by the authorities – no promotional texts or advertising.
- The Pharma Companies add relevant links into the various sections. These links give Fass.se visitors direct access to more information.
- Links should be customized for each user categories – e.g. healthcare information at the healthcare entrance.
- Patient Organisations have their own section in which they present their organisations along with contact information and links to their websites.

FASS.se functionality

- Searches (tradename, substance, ATC-classification…)
- Text to speech
- Order package inserts in Braille (at your pharmacy – restricted by IP-number)
- 'The Medicines University' (webbased training)
- The Medical Guide (describes more than 300 common diseases)
- Access to global information on clinical trials (the clinical trials portal of IFPMA). The portal is in English but searches can be made in Swedish due to the use of MESH terms.
- "My Fass"
"My FASS"

- Create your own customised medical compendium using "My Fass"
- Store your own personal medicine log (medicines list)
- Request dosage intake reminders to your mobile phone (by SMS)
- Alerts on critical updates in products characteristics
- Contact pharma companies for questions and info
- Store your vaccination information and request reminders on when to take the next shot
- Print your medicines list before seeing your doctor
- My Fass is personal and anonymous – all data is confidential
LIF collaborates with several other organisations regarding Fass:

- NMPR (MPA, TLV, Pharmacies, LIF)
- Pregnancy and lactation information classification (Uppsala University)
- Overdose treatment (National Poison Information center)
- Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SKL) on the supply of medicines information to the Swedish healthcare sector
- The Swedish Environmental Institute (IVL) on an classification system concerning the environmental impact of medicines.

For more information: www.fass.se

Thank you for your attention!