Historical Perspective, Current Status and Newer Trends in Pharmacovigilance

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Pharmacovigilance ensures patients and public health safety through the surveillance, assessment, and prevention of adverse effects of medicinal products. Over the years, this discipline has significantly grown since its birth in the mid-20th century. It has been triggered by the advancement in technology, regulatory framework, and international cooperation. From early efforts concentrated on detecting and reporting adverse drug reactions to the modern systems involving artificial intelligence and real-world evidence, pharmacovigilance has been an evolving science adapting to the ever-changing healthcare environment.

This white paper provides a comprehensive overview of pharmacovigilance, starting with its historical evolution, examining its current state, and exploring emerging trends and innovations shaping its future. By contextualizing past lessons and present practices, this paper aims to offer insights into how the field is adapting to meet new regulatory demands, technological advancements, and the growing complexity of global drug safety.