

HEALTH PRIORITIES

2019 European Parliament Elections

Achieving better patient outcomes with the help of hospital pharmacists



Hospital pharmacists are the healthcare professionals responsible for ensuring timely and equal access of patients to safe medication and high-quality pharmaceutical care in the hospital sector. As **key stakeholders in medication management**, hospital pharmacists are equipped with unique skills that are crucial in complex hospital settings, thus bringing value to healthcare teams and ensuring the best patient treatment.

As **medication therapy experts**, it is the role of hospital pharmacists to engage in the selection, procurement, production and distribution of medicines as well as in the provision of clinical pharmacy services, setting quality and safety standards in medication processes, while at the same time ensuring the safe, efficacious, appropriate and cost effective use of medicines. This role has been enshrined in EAHP's 44 European Statements of Hospital Pharmacy which represent commonly agreed objectives that every health system should strive for.

As outlined in Section 1.1. of the European Statements of Hospital Pharmacy, the overarching goal of the hospital pharmacy service is to **optimise patient outcomes** through **working collaboratively within multidisciplinary teams** in order to achieve the **responsible use of medicines** across all settings.



#1 Addressing Medicines Shortages

International co-operation supported by a comprehensive communication system

As indicated in the 2018 Medicines Shortage Survey Report of the EAHP, the issue of medicines shortages has become more troublesome in the past 4 years with now 91.8% of participating hospital pharmacists stressing that **medicines shortages constitute a problem for their hospital pharmacy**.

Given the lack of timely and adequate shortages information, the EAHP urges the Members of the European Parliament to assist in the creation of a common and comprehensive communication strategy. Only the establishment of solid communication channels on shortages targeting all European states will ensure that all supply chain actors, including hospital pharmacists, receive sufficient information and suggestions on alternative solutions in their countries.

#2 Tackling Antimicrobial Resistance

Investing into the uptake of stewardship teams

Hospital pharmacists are gatekeepers to the use of antimicrobials. However, the utilisation of their expertise through the **establishment of antimicrobial stewardship teams** is far from being routine in European hospitals. In order to ensure an adequate and cost-effective application of antimicrobial agents, hospital pharmacists' specialised knowledge and clinical pharmacy services should be used to their full extent.

The EAHP calls on the Members of the European Parliament to advocate for a **stronger uptake of antimicrobial stewardship teams on national level**. These multidisciplinary teams are proven to reduce the development of antimicrobial resistance. In addition, they decrease antibiotic overuse and increase cost savings within the hospital.

#3 Investing into the future of healthcare

Keeping healthcare high on the EU's agenda

Significant challenges are on the horizon with more people living longer while health systems have to deal with more complex conditions, increasing overall costs, expanded use of digital technology and informatics, as well as more frequent medicines shortages crises and stretched budgets, all in the context of rising public expectations in terms of quality of care.

Coordination and communication at EU level is crucial for the **accessibility and affordability of healthcare**. The EAHP recommends that Members of the European Parliament continue their efforts in the field of health, including engaging with stakeholders, in order to ensure that the EU is able to keep up with the changing public health needs and emerging technologies.

The EAHP is looking forward to collaborate with the Members of the European Parliament on achieving these goals!

The European Association of Hospital Pharmacists (EAHP) represents more than 22.000 hospital pharmacists in 35 European countries. It is the only association of national organisations representing hospital pharmacists at European and international levels.



The European Association of Hospital Pharmacists (EAHP)
Boulevard Brand Whitlock 87 Box 11 (4th floor)
1200 Brussels
Tel: +32 (0) 2/669.25.13
email: info@eahp.eu