

Call for the Expression of Interest

EAHP's Special Interest Group Working Towards Eliminating Avoidable Harm

EAHP's Special Interest Group (SIG) Working Towards Eliminating Avoidable Harm is looking for additional experts. To complement the activities of the SIG **engineers, risk managers, nurses, physicians, IT specialists (IT design issues) and individuals with a clinical background** are encouraged to respond to this call for the expression of interest.

Background

Hospital pharmacists play a critical and varied role in the delivery of safe and efficient patient care. With the introduction of novel medicines such as biologics, the adoption of new technology like Artificial Intelligence and a shift to delivering care in settings outside of the hospital, the environment is changing quickly as are the demands placed on this group of professionals.

While such innovations present huge potential benefits to patients, improving patient and healthcare professional safety in this dynamic environment whilst accommodating increasing and diversifying demands on the healthcare system will be challenging and require new ways of working. Critical incident reporting systems (CIRS) play an important role in the elimination of avoidable harm since they support the structured reporting, collation and analysis of incidents. In addition, they help with identifying clinical risks in hospitals.

In March 2022, the European Association of Hospital Pharmacists (EAHP) established a Special Interest Group (SIG) Working Towards Eliminating Avoidable Harm within the supply, preparation and safe administration of medicines in Europe. The work of EAHP's SIG is sponsored by a grant from Baxter. The decisions and outcomes delivered by this working group remain independent of this financial support.

Scope of activities

EAHP's SIG Working Towards Eliminating Avoidable Harm is tasked with looking at how hospital pharmacists could better identify, understand and manage the many factors that impact the delivery of care. Particular focus will be put on eliminating avoidable harm within the supply, preparation and safe administration of all types of medicines in Europe. This will be achieved by looking at current critical incidences, desk research and proposing approaches on how to minimise the occurrence of risks, critical incidents, and therefore also harm. The discussions of the SIG will go beyond the hospital pharmacy, meaning that the whole process along the supply chain of medicinal products will be taken into account as well as the legal framework.

The SIG is currently comprised of hospital pharmacists from EAHP's membership and representatives from Baxter. To complement its activities additional experts from other European scientific/professional associations, in particular representing nurses, physicians and hospital managers as well as engineers, risk managers and IT specialists are needed.

The SIG meets once per month for 2 hours (every first Thursday of the month). In addition to the monthly meetings, there are between 2 to 5 hours of preparatory and follow-up work each month before/after meetings for SIG members. The mandate of the SIG started in March 2022 and will last for at least one year.

Selection criteria

This call for the expression of interests is directed primarily at **engineers, risk managers, nurses, physicians, IT specialists** (IT design issues) and **individuals with a clinical background** (e.g. AMR specialist). Applicants should have:

- 5-10 years of professional experience, preferably linked to activities targeting the elimination of avoidable harm
- Sufficient time to commit themselves to the work of the SIG which will involve regular (online) meeting attendance including preparation and follow-up activities determined during the SIG meetings;
- Good spoken and written English as well as communication/presentation skills

Geographic diversity will be one overarching criterion applied in the selection of the SIG members. Previous participation in other working groups/special interest groups or professional associations will be taken into account when reviewing the applications.

Application procedure

Expressions of interest from pharmacists meeting the eligibility criteria should be submitted by email to: Jennie.DeGreef@eahp.eu

In order to be deemed admissible, applications must provide EAHP with a:

- Motivation letter
- CV including:
 - full contact details
 - academic degree
 - practical experience/background
 - ability to speak and write in English

Closing date

This Call for Expressions of Interest closes on the **31st of August 2022 at 11.59 PM CET**. EAHP reserves the right to disregard any application sent after that date/time.

Successful candidates will be contacted after the application deadline has passed.