



European Association for Automated Dose Dispensing- EAADD Information for the EAHP Board March 2020

Invitation: The EAADD would like to thank the European Association of Hospital Pharmacists (EAHP) staff for engagement to date and for this opportunity to engage with the EAHP board. We would like to invite the EAHP to join the EAADD as an honorary member and to collaborate with the EAADD.

Membership: Pharmacists, hospitals and other sites and persons involved in ADD on a small or large scale and other relevant and interested parties will make up the EAADD membership. Honorary membership, with no associated membership fee, will be available to certain associations such as the EAHP. Individual membership will be available to ADD sites and relevant individuals, such as hospital pharmacists. The intention is for the association to be all inclusive. The structures around the association's membership are currently being established.¹

ADD: For the purposes of the association, ADD is defined as the dispensing of one or more different medicinal products into an ADD container or pouch. It is performed by a method involving an automated process. One container/pouch contains either one, some or all units of medicine an individual patient needs to take at a particular date and time. The medicinal products may be removed from their (original) primary containers before they are dispensed via ADD; if the primary packaging container is a blister, this process is called "deblistering". Alternatively, medicinal products may be dispensed into the ADD containers/pouches in their primary packaging.

ADD in Europe: ADD is occurring on varying scales in most European countries in community, hospital and other pharmacy/ADD site settings. Some countries such as Finland and Austria have legislation in this area, other countries, such as the Netherlands, have standards or guidelines and many countries, including Spain and Ireland, have no specific guidelines or standards. The European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines (EDQM) developed guidelines for ADD and some countries are using these to underpin ADD activity in their country.

¹ The largest community pharmacy based ADD provider in Spain are establishing this association. Other European ADD providers are also involved.

EAADD Goals: The goals of the association are being developed and will be refined by the early members and are likely include:

- Communication, networking and sharing ideas, experience and knowledge around automated dose dispensing (ADD)
- Promotion of ADD as a core facet of pharmaceutical care
- Strengthening the use of the EDQM ADD Guidelines as the European standard for ADD, especially in countries where there are no or inferior standards in place
- Collaborating with relevant European, national and local associations on ADD standards and activities
- Liaising with and advocating to European, national and local authorities on ADD activities
- Supporting the rational use of medicines in ADD, including medication adherence and the reduction of adverse medication events
- Supporting a sustainable ADD infrastructure, which reduces medication expenditure and waste
- Supporting ADD innovation and advancements

A constitution for the association is also in the process of being developed.

Collaboration with the EAHP: The EAADD would like to collaborate with the EAHP.

Potential opportunities to collaborate could include:

- The EAHP and/or the national hospital associations becoming members of and collaborating with the EAADD
- Individual hospital based ADD pharmacists or sites becoming members of the EAADD
- Relevant pharmacists experienced in ADD becoming leaders within the EAADD
- The EAADD updating the EAHP on its activities, in writing or via meetings/presentations
- The EAHP disseminating information on the EAADD to members, for example via meetings or newsletters
- The EAHP providing updates to the EAADD on ADD activities within their membership
- Any other opportunities the EAHP or EAADD deem beneficial to its members