

HEALTH PRIORITIES

2024 EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS MANIFESTO

HOSPITAL PHARMACISTS CHANGING ROLES
FOR BETTER PATIENT OUTCOMES



Hospital pharmacists are the key stakeholders responsible for medication management and safety in the hospital environment, covering both in- and out-patient services and supporting the seamless transition of care for patients moving within the healthcare system. Hospital pharmacies have a direct effect on the efficient functioning of the medicines supply chain and the management of the medicines and medical devices in the reimbursement system. Therefore, they are responsible for dispensing medications, quality checking, formulating and re-formulating dosage forms, monitoring and reporting drug and device safety. Healthcare has been transforming so has the hospital pharmacy profession. Hospital pharmacists have changed from their traditional role to more medicine-focused to clinical, patient-oriented care, applying clinical expertise as a part of an interdisciplinary approach.

Hospital pharmacists are also pivotal in ensuring that the “7 Rights” of patients (the right patient, the right medicine, the right dose, the right route, the right time, right information and right documentation) are upheld. This spirit is reflected in the 44 European Statements of Hospital Pharmacy that express commonly agreed objectives which every European health system should aim for in the delivery of hospital pharmacy services.

1 ADDRESSING MEDICINES AND MEDICAL DEVICES SHORTAGES

The 2023 Shortages Survey Report of the EAHP showed that 95% of European hospital pharmacists still experience medicine shortages and 61% reported that the unavailability of medical devices is a problem in their hospital.

EAHP urges the candidates and future Members of the European Parliament to:

- assist in raising awareness for having stronger obligations on shortages reporting by all supply chain actors and strengthening the Commission’s action plan for shortages, where all of them are treated with the same level of importance.
- call on the European Commission to develop a guideline on best practices for public procurement that would be key to shortage prevention that safeguards not only affordability challenges, but also the long-term continuity of supply.

- improved transparency and information exchange between authorities and supply chain actors as well as best practice sharing and implementation support on shortage management strategies between relevant national regulatory bodies to support patient safety.

2

TACKLING ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Hospital pharmacists are gatekeepers to the use of antimicrobials. However, the utilization 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' specialized knowledge and clinical pharmacy services should be fully utilized.

EAHP calls on the candidates and future Members of the European Parliament to:

- advocate for stronger uptake of antimicrobial stewardship teams, including hospital pharmacists as a pivotal component in such collaborations in European hospitals. These teams are essential for the prudent and appropriate use of antimicrobials.
- make a resolution urging the European Commission to put forward a comprehensive guideline to ensure that essential, sometimes old, antibiotics are maintained on the market and that alternative production by hospital pharmacists is enabled where necessary.

3

INVESTING IN THE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE

Hospital pharmacists are the backbone of healthcare systems and appropriate investment should be made to make the healthcare workforce more sustainable. On the one hand, the profession has been evolving and the curricula should accompany this fast-changing environment. On the other hand, healthcare workforce shortage is not a new phenomenon, but it was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting the expansion of pharmacy education capacities and effectively fostering professional mobility is paramount to mitigating shortages in the hospital pharmacy workforce, where member states that have more professionals could easily allow them to work in a member state that needs more professionals.

EAHP asks candidates and Members of the European Parliament to:

- take the initiative of asking the European Commission to put forward a proposal to revise **Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications** to include new competencies that the pharmacists are already carrying out and students are keen to be better equipped in the areas of Antimicrobial Resistance and digital skills that are not in the curricula currently.
- contribute to addressing the EU-level lack of mutual recognition of hospital pharmacy education as a structured specialization, by raising awareness on how vital qualified hospital pharmacists with postgraduate education are to patient outcomes. With a Common Training Framework in place, the hospital pharmacists of the participating countries in the project could have automatic recognition of the qualifications which would allow for more professional mobility between such countries.

4

IMPROVING MEDICATION SAFETY

Hospital pharmacists ensure the safety of medicinal therapies for the patient throughout the care pathway. Medication-related errors may occur when a medicine has been inappropriately prescribed, prepared, dispensed, or administered to a patient. Hospital pharmacists are actively involved in optimising the services and their delivery to patients. Due to their expertise in all-medicines-related processes, hospital pharmacists are responsible for medicines and treatment outcomes optimisation. Their invaluable contributions to multidisciplinary teams in ensuring patients' compliance with their therapies are also essential.

EAHP asks the candidates and Members of the European Parliament to:

- Contribute to the awareness of the changing roles of hospital pharmacists and their invaluable role in the healthcare system.
- Support the European-wide harmonization of the recognition and inclusion of hospital pharmacists within frontline healthcare teams.

5

HAVING HEALTH HIGH ON THE PUBLIC AGENDA

EAHP believes that coordination and communication are essential to safeguard that the trinity of Accessibility, Availability and Affordability of healthcare systems is managed in a balanced way. **Candidates and the Members of the European Parliament shall continue engaging with the different stakeholders to keep healthcare high on the agenda.**

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 27.000 hospital pharmacists in 36 European countries. It is the only association of national organisations representing hospital pharmacists at European and international levels.

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