

# eLearning Environment for Ensuring the Competence in Pharmacotherapy



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## Background

The Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health published the national Safe Pharmacotherapy Guideline in 2005 for the provision of pharmacotherapy in public and private social and health care units. The guidance requires that the competence in pharmacotherapy of health care professionals is confirmed regularly.

## Creating eLearning Environment

The eLearning environment for ensuring the competence in pharmacotherapy was developed as an initiative in Eastern Finland to respond to the demands of the guideline mentioned above.

- The multiprofessional management team is monitoring eLearning courses.
- The specialists prepare material and exam questions.
- The learning material will be tested and refined before publication.



## Software

The courses were created for free software e-learning platform, Moodle (Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment). The philosophy of Moodle is based on a social constructionist approach to learning. The platform is suitable for different kinds of environments and both teachers and learners can contribute to the educational experience.

## The Family of eLearning Courses

- 1) The Basics of Pharmacotherapy
- 2) Intravenous Medication
- 3) Epidural Medication
- 4) Drug Therapy for Mental Disorders
- 5) Paediatric Medication
- 6) Geriatric Medication
- 7) Medication in Acute Care
- 8) Cytostatic Medication

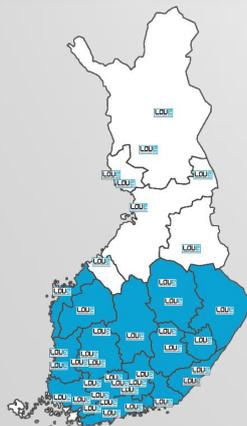


## Studying

At the moment the eLearning environment includes 8 courses. The Basics of Pharmacotherapy is compulsory to all members of the staff carrying out pharmacotherapy. Other courses are compulsory only for nurses depending on the requirements of their hospitals and working units.

Our online courses consist of lectures, online exercises and videos. The exam will be taken under supervision. The program will provide immediate exam results and explanations for the wrong answers.

## Process for the License to Medicate



## Outcomes

The use of eLearning environment in pharmacotherapy is widespread in Finland. It has harmonized the processes of ensuring the competence in pharmacotherapy in

- 15 of 20 hospital districts
- almost 20 municipalities or joint councils and
- tens of private service providers.

Studies on the effectiveness of the eLearning courses are in progress.



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