

Declaration

Pharmacist improving people's health



The European Forum of Pharmaceutical Associations, EuroPharm Forum, 17th Annual Meeting:

Recalling the Tallinn Charter: Health Systems for Health and Wealth, WHO, Regional Office for Europe, 2008, and Standards for Quality of Pharmacy Services, Good Pharmacy Practice, FIP, 1997

Noting that pharmacists, as part of the health systems in Europe, contribute to increased health and wealth

Recognising

- That health systems are more than health care and include disease prevention, health promotion and efforts to influence other health professionals to address health concerns
- That all countries in Europe have different health challenges in the context of demographic and epidemiological change, widening socioeconomic disparities, limited resources, technological development and rising expectations
- That well-functioning health systems are essential to improving health
- That pharmacists' unique role in primary and secondary care must be dedicated to improving people's health and wealth
- That this is a continuing process and that many pharmacists are already dedicated to improving health in their own regions, and that collaborative practice, together with other health professionals, increases the outcome

Conscious of the Helsinki declaration: Pharmacists and Public Health, 2003, and other WHO and EuroPharm Forum documents concerned about the role of the pharmacist

Determined

- To promote shared values of solidarity, equity and participation through pharmacy policies, resource allocation and other actions, ensuring that due attention is paid to the needs of the poor and other vulnerable groups

- To invest in pharmacy systems and foster investment across sectors that influence health by pharmacists' interventions, using evidence on the links between socioeconomic development and health by pharmacists' interventions
- To promote transparency and be accountable for pharmacy system performance to achieve measurable results
- To make pharmacy systems more responsive to people's needs, preferences and expectations, while recognising their rights and responsibilities with regard to their own health by pharmacists' interventions
- To foster cross-country learning and co-operation on the design and implementation of pharmacy system reforms at national and sub-national levels
- To ensure that pharmacy systems are prepared and able to respond to crises, and that pharmacists collaborate with each other and other health care professionals to enforce the International Health Regulations

Calls upon national pharmaceutical associations, working within their areas of responsibility,

1. To value and strive to make possible the provision of quality pharmacy services for all, particularly for vulnerable groups, in response to their needs, and to enable people to make healthy lifestyle choices.
2. To provide access to quality pharmaceutical care, and rely on the best available evidence that medical and pharmaceutical science can offer and use the most appropriate technology to ensure improved effectiveness and patient safety.
3. To provide a relationship between the individual patient and the pharmacist based on respect for privacy, dignity and confidentiality.
4. To provide a platform for the interface of pharmaceutical services with communities and families, and for intersectoral and interprofessional co-operation and health promotion to ensure effective pharmaceutical care.
5. To integrate targeted disease-specific programmes into existing structures and services in order to achieve better and sustainable outcomes.
6. To ensure a holistic approach to services through the provision, from pharmacies, of health promotion, disease prevention, disease management programmes and opportunistic pharmacists' intervention; and to ensure that these services are delivered in co-ordination with services provided in other institutions and settings, including primary care, acute and extended care facilities and people's homes – irrespective of whether these are in the public or the private sector.

7. To work for an appropriate balance between pharmaceutical care, disease prevention and health promotion to address current and future health and medicines needs with respect to resources and, if necessary, redistribute the resources to meet needs in health by pharmacists' interventions, reduce financial barriers to the use of needed services, and protect against the financial risk of using care.
8. To make financing arrangements in order to provide incentives for the efficient organisation and delivery of pharmacy services, link the allocation of resources to providers on the basis of their performance and the needs of the population, and promote accountability and transparency in the use of funds.
9. To work for further investment in the pharmaceutical workforce, as it has implications not only for the investing country, but also for others due to the mobility of pharmacists; the international recruitment of pharmacists should be guided by ethical considerations and cross-country solidarity, and ensured through a code of practice.
10. To foster pharmacy policy and systems research and make ethical and effective use of innovations in medical and pharmaceutical technology.
11. To use health technology assessment to support more informed decision-making.
12. To influence ministries of health to set the vision for pharmacy system development and to support gathering documentation on health by pharmacists' interventions and its social, economic and environmental determinants.
13. To influence ministries of health to include considerations on health by pharmacists' interventions in all policies and advocate pharmacists' effective implementation across sectors.
14. To assist ministries of health in securing transparency and accountability in monitoring and evaluation of pharmacy system performance and balanced co-operation with stakeholders at all levels.
15. To be committed to measure performance and exchange experience on the above.

We, the Members of the EuroPharm Forum, commit ourselves to using this Declaration as a basis to transform our shared values into action and as a milestone to catalyse implementation of the above commitments on strengthening pharmacy systems.

3 October 2008