

Statement on Patient Safety

Hospital Pharmacists are key stakeholders in medication management in hospitals and should be fully engaged by hospital administrators in ensuring the judicious, safe, efficacious, appropriate, and cost effective use of medicines. A key part of this role is ensuring that for patients receiving care in either a hospital setting or in specialised ambulatories, the 7 “rights” are respected i.e. right patient, right dose, right route, right time, right drug with the right information and the right documentation.

Some of the ways hospital pharmacists can improve patient safety and ensure that the seven rights are applied in practice include:

- Providing the right advice to patients, physicians and nurses on the safe use of medicine and contributing to improved patient outcomes through collaborative therapeutic monitoring and decision-making.
- Acquiring the additional expertise needed to meet the specific needs of particularly vulnerable patient groups such as haemato-oncology, intensive care, infectious diseases, and paediatrics.
- Reducing medication errors by implementing evidence-based systems or technologies, such as automated prescription-filling, unit dose distribution, and bar coding systems.
- Improving standard operating procedures and patient safety protocols by reporting medication errors or adverse reactions to non-punitive national and European clinical incident systems.
- Procuring the right drugs and related medical devices on the basis of strong safety and quality assurance principles and putting in place strategies to cope with drug shortages.

EAHP believes that all patients must have equal access to safe high quality pharmaceutical care and that in a complex hospital setting this is underpinned by the specialized knowledge, skills and experience of the hospital pharmacist. There are a number of policies and legislative initiatives on the European agenda which represent opportunities for hospital pharmacists to use their expertise to advocate for patient safety. This includes the review of EU rules on professional mobility, public procurement and clinical trials as well as the implementation of EU rules at national level in areas such as pharmacovigilance and tackling counterfeit drugs.

EAHP is fully committed to engaging with the EU agenda and using the collective experience of hospital pharmacists to advocate for a regulatory framework that gives all patients access to safe high quality pharmaceutical care.