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New Council of Europe resolution will promote pharmaceutical care in Europe

A new [Council of Europe resolution on the implementation of pharmaceutical care for the benefit of patients and health services](#)¹ has been adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to improve medication use and the quality of care across Europe. The resolution defines a framework for promoting and implementing the concept of pharmaceutical care in health systems at national level.

Inappropriate use of medicines results in sub-optimal medication outcomes and significant health damage for patients and it decreases the efficiency and effectiveness of healthcare systems. Hence the importance of considering the promotion and implementation of pharmaceutical care in European countries, a patient-centred practice. The concept of pharmaceutical care encourages pharmacists to use their expertise and that of the pharmacy team to contribute to appropriate use of medicines and health promotion, both locally and nationally.

The resolution uses Hepler's and Strand's definition of pharmaceutical care: "the responsible provision of drug therapy for the purpose of achieving definite outcomes that improve a patient's quality of life" which "involves the process through which a pharmacist cooperates with a patient and other professionals in designing, implementing and monitoring a therapeutic plan that will produce specific therapeutic outcomes for the patient".² The resolution was prepared by an ad-hoc working party composed of hospital and community pharmacists, academics and representatives of national competent authorities, which was overseen by the Committee on Pharmaceuticals and Pharmaceutical Care (CD-P-PH) of the Council of Europe.

The resolution will provide health authorities across Europe with guidance and recommendations supporting the promotion and implementation of pharmaceutical care as a quality-enhancing element in healthcare systems at regional and national level. Healthcare professionals and associations will now have a legal basis for the implementation of pharmaceutical care and related working methods in their daily activities. The primary aim of all healthcare professionals involved in the medication process should be to achieve the best possible improvement in quality of life for the patient. However, the potential benefits of medications are sometimes not fully achieved (e.g. due to lack of medication adherence) or, even worse, inappropriate use of medicines can lead to increased morbidity or even mortality. Pharmaceutical care directly and comprehensively addresses the medication needs of patients and, in doing so, contributes to the overall efforts of healthcare professionals in providing care that is centred around the patient, optimising medication use and promoting rational use of resources.

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Note for the Editor: Further information is available on the internet site <https://www.edqm.eu/>.

1. [Resolution CM/Res\(2020\)3 on the implementation of pharmaceutical care for the benefit of patients and health services](#).

2. Hepler C.D. and Strand L.M., "Opportunities and Responsibilities in Pharmaceutical Care", American Journal of Hospital Pharmacy 1990; 47: 533-43.

The EDQM is a leading organisation that protects public health by enabling the development, supporting the implementation, and monitoring the application of quality standards for safe medicines and their safe use. Our standards are recognised as a scientific benchmark worldwide. The European Pharmacopoeia is legally binding in member states.¹ Similarly, the EDQM develops guidance and standards in the areas of blood transfusion, organ transplantation and consumer health issues.

1. There are 40 members of the [European Pharmacopoeia Commission](#): *Austria, Albania, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and the European Union.*

A political organisation set up in 1949, the Council of Europe works to promote democracy and human rights continent-wide. It also develops common responses to social, cultural and legal challenges in its 47 member states.