

EAHP website HONcode certified

In January 2010, EAHP acquired Health on the Net Foundation Code, HONcode certification. The HON Foundation is a non-governmental organisation, set up to address the reliability and usefulness of medical information on the Internet.

EAHP undertook the process of having its website certified to pursue its commitment to transparency and trustworthiness. It is important to the EAHP leadership and members that website visitors are not misled. At a time when a heated debate on the policy to provide information to patients is taking place in European institutions, EAHP wanted to reassert its non-commercial position.

Displaying the HONcode logo implies that EAHP abides by the following pledges:

- give qualifications of authors
- complementarity: information to support, not replace the doctor–patient relationship
- confidentiality: respect the privacy of site users
- attribution: cite the sources and dates of medical information
- justifiability: ability to back claims
- transparency: accessibility, provide valid contact details
- financial disclosure: provide details of funding
- advertising: clearly distinguish advertising from editorial content.

The home page of the EAHP website, www.eahp.eu now displays the HONcode logo.

Recognition of the specialisation in Hospital Pharmacy

After meeting the European Commission and other pharmacy-related European organisations to discuss the specialisation in hospital pharmacy, see *Eur J Hosp Pharm Prac.* 2009; 15(6):10. EAHP President, Dr Roberto Frontini and Director of Professional Development, Professor Juraj Sykora attended the second PHARMINE six-monthly meeting in Brussels, Belgium, on 7 January 2010. The principle of having a specialisation in hospital pharmacy supported by European legal texts was agreed by all parties present. EAHP is delighted to have the support of peers and colleagues working in industry and community pharmacy. EAHP does not suggest imposing the specialisation on all EU Member States; however, it wishes that when a hospital pharmacist who obtains the qualification in one EU country moves to work in another EU Member State, his qualification is automatically recognised.

At the meeting, EAHP was tasked with collecting detailed information about education in hospital pharmacy in its Member countries and data on the number of hospital pharmacists. A questionnaire has been put online to be completed by EAHP Member country delegates and a working party created

to review and evaluate the information collected. EAHP will then prepare a pan-European curriculum in specialisation in hospital pharmacy. This curriculum will be submitted via the PHARMINE project to the European Commission, in the form of a recommendation.

Readers are invited to learn more about the project at www.pharmine.org and to contact the EAHP office, info@eahp.eu to get involved in the venture.

Tracking medicines

In support of its position on unit dose and bar codes, for more information please refer to EAHP website: www.eahp.eu/Advocacy/Bar-coded-unit-doses. EAHP got involved in January 2010 in the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines and HealthCare (EDQM) – Council of Europe, Track and Trace medicines project. Its goal is to provide a pan-European anti-counterfeiting service.

The EDQM Track and Trace project hopes to provide a ‘Unique Medicine Identifier’ (UMI) in the form of a standard code, e.g. data matrix, for individual pharmaceutical items. The project welcomes any industrial partners willing to join it to incorporate a UMI on individual packs. This will be available for checking in the downstream supply chain from manufacturers to patients. The check will consist of querying a repository or a network of repositories managed and secured by EDQM. It is hoped to provide both real-time traceability of items during distribution and secure partition of data between the different stakeholders with different constraints in terms of confidentiality (manufacturers, wholesalers, secondary packagers, retail pharmacists, patients). The scope of the project covers pharmaceutical products (not medical devices), retail, hospital and Internet sales in the current 36 European Pharmacopoeia Member States. Querying the system will allow a check that the item is genuine.

EAHP is also in discussions about GS1 (a global organisation for the design and implementation of international standards to improve the efficiency and visibility of supply and demand chains), data matrix bar codes.

Reminder:

Do not forget to register for the 15th EAHP Congress, there is still time: www.eahp.eu/Annual-Congresses – Focus on pharmacotherapy – hospital pharmacists advancing patient care, to be held in Nice, France, 24–26 March 2010.

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