

The two organisations representing community and hospital pharmacists in Europe have come together to make a **declaration** ^[1] on the development of the pharmacy profession.

The joint statement by the **Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union (PGEU)** ^[2] and **the European Association of Hospital Pharmacists (EAHP)** ^[3] represents a call to action to national governments to, firstly, enable pharmacists to increase their role in optimising patient use of medicines, and, secondly, to improve the systems supporting multi-professional care across Europe.

EAHP and PGEU believe that pharmacists, as experts in medicines, should be at the heart of national strategies to ensure best outcomes for patients. This includes pharmacists educating patients about the optimal use of their medicines, and helping to ensure that potential polypharmacy problems, which can arise when a patient takes multiple medications, are satisfactorily resolved and reconciled.

The development of these roles for pharmacists is especially relevant in view of Europe's ageing population, combined with the pressures on public spending that are likely for the foreseeable future. In this sense, it has never been more important to ensure national spending on medicines achieves intended outcomes in a cost-effective manner.

Pharmacists, in both community and hospital settings, are uniquely placed to facilitate this, so long as health policy makers recognise the opportunity and make the necessary commitments to its achievement.

Finally, the joint statement also highlights the need for multi-professional approaches to healthcare delivery to ensure integrated and seamless patient care. This includes improving systems for communication between health sectors when a patient transfers between hospital and community (and vice-versa), especially in relation to situations where changes are made to a patient's medication.

PGEU and EAHP call for commitment from Governments to achieving multi-professional care, and for the integration of the multi-professional team concept within health professional education curriculums.

Speaking on the publication of **the statement** ^[1], **Dr. Roberto Frontini, EAHP President** said:

"The joint statement by EAHP and PGEU represents our shared goals in maximising the benefits the health service derives from pharmacists' expertise in medicines. More than ever before decision makers in the health sector must ask and answer important questions about improving value and the outcomes achieved for patients. The pharmacist's positive role in ensuring optimal use of medicines by patients is therefore a central consideration to

successfully meeting the challenges of today and tomorrow.”

Ms Isabelle Adenot, PGEU President said:

“While patients receive primary care as well as hospital-based care, European pharmacists practice in both settings and share the challenge of improving the rational use of medicines. Having a common roadmap can help them to progress. This is the purpose of our joint statement.”

ENDS

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. EAHP is an association of national organisations representing hospital pharmacists at European and international levels. More information about the EAHP and its history [here](#). [6]
2. PGEU is the European association representing more than 400,000 community pharmacists. PGEU's members are the national associations and professional bodies of pharmacists in 32 European countries, including EU Member States, EEA/EFTA members and EU applicant countries. For more information, please visit the PGEU website www.pgeu.eu [7]
3. The joint statement, [here](#) [1], was passed by the General Assemblies of both EAHP (June 2012) and the PGEU (November 2012)

17 December 2012

Links

[1] <http://www.eahp.eu/content/pgeu-and-eahp-joint-statement-development-pharmacy-profession> [2]
<http://www.pgeu.eu/> [3] <http://www.eahp.eu/> [4] <https://www.eahp.eu/contact/richard.price/eahp/eu> [5]
<https://www.eahp.eu/contact/g.giacomuzzi/pgeu/eu> [6] <http://eahp.cxn.be/about-us> [7] <http://www.pgeu.eu>