

Sustainable Development Goal 3

Hospital pharmacist action to transform the hospital world by 2030

Hospital pharmacists play a crucial role in providing safe, effective and affordable medicines. Through their efforts they are working on a daily basis towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3).

1 Hospital pharmacy specialisation proves that specialised healthcare professionals improves health outcomes.



Hospital pharmacists play a key role in advancing patient safety by implementing processes to reduce medication errors and adverse drug events.

2



Hospital pharmacists are the only healthcare professionals able to overcome the problem of growing medicine shortages through compounding medicines tailored to patients' individual needs.

The 2018 Medicines Shortages Report of EAHP raises awareness about the growing problem of medicines shortages. EAHP engages closely with other stakeholders and its members to ensure that hospital pharmacists, through their work related to solving medicines shortages, contribute to SDG3.

3

As healthcare professionals actively involved in procurement and purchasing, hospital pharmacists are playing a crucial role in securing the access to medicines and medical devices to patients within the healthcare systems.

The implementation of the European Statements of Hospital Pharmacy and advocacy work linked to EAHP's position paper on procurement ensures that hospital pharmacists across Europe – due to their knowledge and skills - are leading in all phases of the procurement processes and practices to ensure the continuity of supply of cost-effective and quality medicines to patients. Through this action EAHP contributes to making safe, effective and affordable medicines available to patients in line with SDG3.



Small steps taken on national level by individual pharmacists will contribute greatly to achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 by 2030. Healthy lives and the promotion of well-being for all at all ages can for instance be achieved through the active participation in the World Health Organisation's (WHO) 3rd Global Patient Safety Challenge.



What can I do as hospital pharmacists to implement the SDG 3?

The 'Medicines Without Harm' challenge was launched by WHO in March 2017. It aims at reducing severe avoidable medication related harm by 50% globally over the next five years.

The challenge calls for 5 actions to be taken

TAKE EARLY ACTION TO PROTECT PATIENTS FROM HARM

e.g. implement a closed loop medication system in your hospital or start using single unit dose barcoding

CONVENE EXPERTS TO PRODUCE GUIDANCE AND ACTION PLANS

e.g. bring together hospital pharmacists, managers and other healthcare professionals to work jointly on a guidance that helps lower medication errors in your hospital

PUT MECHANISMS IN PLACE THAT ENHANCE PATIENT AWARENESS

e.g. talk to patients that you see in your hospital pharmacy

DESIGNATE A NATIONAL COORDINATOR TO SPEARHEAD THE ACTION

e.g. identify a contact person in your national hospital pharmacy association that wants to take the lead for the 'Medicines Without Harm' initiative in your country

ASSESS PROGRESS REGULARLY

e.g. organise meetings between your national contact person and local actors engaging in the initiative

