Declaration of Patients’ Rights

By the UEMS

Specialist Section of Medical Biopathology

Including Clinical Chemistry, Clinical Immunology, Clinical Microbiology, Hematology and Transfusion Medicine, Polyvalent Medical Biopathology

Recalling the Amsterdam Declaration on the Promotion of Patients’ Rights in Europe and the annexed document (Principles of the Rights of Patients in Europe: A Common Framework);

Considering that citizens should necessarily participate in decisions regarding their own health and any health care system should be patient-oriented;

Recognizing the duties of physicians as defined in the "International Code of Medical Ethics of the World Medical Association";

Considering that it is the essential purpose of medical ethics to ensure that patients’ trust in the medical profession is deserved and medical ethics aim to protect patients from the abuse as lined out in "Ethical Practice in Laboratory Medicine and Forensic Pathology" published by the World Health Organization - Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean;

Recognizing that Blood must be collected under the responsibility of a physician and transfusion must be given under the responsibility of a physician as stated by the "International Society of Blood Transfusion Code of Ethics for Blood Donation and Transfusion";

Considering the importance to recognize that providing results of tests in Biopathology (Clinical Pathology / Laboratory Medicine) is a medical act that can have a life-altering impact upon patients and that information provided about the results, and the manner of its provision, must assist the treating doctor to properly advise the patient about the diagnosis and its consequences;

Bearing in mind that the patients’ interests are paramount.

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 Recommends that the governments of EU member states:

- recognize the patients’ right to refuse a treatment or a diagnostic procedure
- enable patients to make decisions on their own behalf;
- ensure that all directors of medical laboratories must have a degree as Medical Doctor and have specialized post-graduate professional education and training in clinical laboratory work.
- ensure that it is the patients’ right to know that all laboratory tests are performed under the decisive guidance and clinical interpretation of a Medical Biopathologist (Clinical Pathologist / Laboratory Physician).