



The Newsletter of European Medical Specialists

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Outcomes of the UEMS Council Meeting (Munich, 21-22.10.2005)



European Definition of the Medical Act

UEMS Council, at its meeting held in Munich on 21 & 22 October 2005, adopted a European Definition of the Medical Act.

This definition, which covers the wide range of activities carried out by Medical Specialists and making up the specific nature of

Specialists' professional actions, is based on a previous statement already agreed upon in 1996. This update was requested by a certain number of the UEMS Sections in order to find a clear description of specialists' duties.

The Medical Act was defined by UEMS Council as follows:

“The medical act encompasses all the professional action, e.g. scientific, teaching, training and educational, clinical and medico-technical steps, performed to promote health, prevent diseases, provide diagnostic or therapeutic care to patients, individuals, groups or communities and is the responsibility of, and must always be performed by a registered medical doctor/physician or under his or her direct supervision and/or prescription.”

UEMS Executive would like to thank the delegates of national member associations as well as of Sections & Boards of UEMS who contributed to adopt this definition.

This text was forwarded to the other European medical organisations for information.

For further information on this issue, please contact the Secretariat of UEMS.

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UEMS to start collaboration with Guidelines-International-Network

On the occasion of its October Meeting, UEMS decided to start collaborating with Guidelines-International-Network (GIN). This partnership will contribute to increase the visibility of the clinical guidelines produced by the Sections and Boards of UEMS.

UEMS Council, at its Meeting in March 2005, mandated its working group on quality in patient care to look

into a possible cooperation in the field of guideline development. This was fully endorsed by the Sections and Boards of UEMS at their Meeting in May 2005.

During the October Meeting of the Council of UEMS, Dr. Angela Maienborn, Principal Officer of GIN, was invited to present her organisation and the possibilities of collaboration offered to UEMS.

Dr. Maienborn identified the aims of clinical guidelines as:

- To summarise and synthesise knowledge and innovations in medicine;
- To reduce variation in practice;
- To promote evidence-based clinical practice;

- To improve quality of care;
- To satisfy the need for transparency and accountability.

It was pointed out that, thanks to guidelines, the overload of information and the "inter-doctor variation" could be rationalised with an ultimate view to improving patient safety.



With respect to GIN itself, Dr. Maienborn recalled the history of her organisation which was set up following a recommendation from the Council of Europe and in

partnership with AGREE ("Appraisal of Guidelines Research and Evaluation"). Since its creation, GIN aimed to improve the quality of health care by promoting systematic development of clinical practice guidelines and their application into practice, notably through supporting international collaboration.

The agreement between UEMS and GIN signed in Munich will improve UEMS involvement in guidelines development with the final aim to ensure patient safety. A survey will also be carried out among European Specialists in order to assess the use and utility of clinical practice guidelines.

The voice of practising medical specialists in Europe