



**UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS
SPÉCIALISTES
EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL
SPECIALISTS**

Association internationale sans but lucratif

International non-profit organisation

RUE DE L'INDUSTRIE, 24
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REPORT UEMS NMA – October 2018

Name of the National Medical Association	Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists	
Legal Status	Professional self-government associating all medical doctors and dentists practicing in Poland	
Website	nil.org.pl	
Head of delegation	prof. Andrzej Matyja President of the Supreme Medical Council of the PCPD prezes@hipokrates.org +48 22 559 13 30	
Other Members of the Delegation	Marek Szewczyński m.szewczynski@hipokrates.org	Name: Email: Phone :
	Name: Email: Phone :	Name: Email: Phone :
CME status in your Country (mandatory/voluntary?)	Yes Mandatory – it is both legal (law on the profession) as well as ethical obligation (Code of Medical Ethics)	
Please specify if sanctions could apply in case of breach	No direct sanctions are envisaged. However may have negative consequences in specific situations	
CME accreditation body	Regional Chambers of Physicians and Dentists and Supreme Chamber of Physicians and Dentists	
Is there a separate “CME credits recognition body” for individual doctors?	No.	
Number of delegates to UEMS Bodies		
National Registry of Specialists and website	The Central Register of Physicians and Dentists which is run by the Supreme Chamber and based on Regional Registers contains information about all medical doctors and dentists in Poland including those with specialist title.	
Please list events/topics/developments that you consider the most important for medical specialists in your country	In Poland, since years, there is a legal obligation to vaccinate – there is a list of obligatory vaccinations against certain communicable diseases. For some time the anti-vaccination movements are intensifying their activities. This year a so called civic draft of law (i.e. a draft signed by at least 100 000 citizens) amending the law on communicable diseases was submitted to the Polish Parliament. The aim of this project is to abolish the obligation of preventive vaccinations.	



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The professional self-government of physicians and dentists clearly stated that the proposed cancellation of obligatory vaccinations is a real threat to the life and health of Polish inhabitants. This opinion is shared by the Polish government which was announced publicly on behalf of the government by the Minister of Health prof. Łukasz Szumowski.

Also the Ombudsman of Patient Rights, the National Consultant on Epidemiology, the National Consultant on Public Health, the Board of the Supreme Council of Nurses and Midwives, the Supreme Pharmaceutical Chamber presented their negative opinions on the draft. Within the ongoing public debate related to this draft law the opinion and arguments of the medical self-government and other experts in the field of medicine, as well as the international medical organizations are confronted with statements of lay persons without proper medical knowledge who shape their views on vaccination on the basis of information from the internet.

The professional self-government of Polish doctors and dentists is of the opinion that the cancellation of compulsory vaccinations will result in an increase of infectious diseases and may lead to epidemics in the longer term. The Supreme Medical Council assessed this project as dangerous for patient safety, in particular in times of large migrations. According to the current medical evidence-based knowledge, there is no method of protection against communicable diseases more effective than general vaccination. Therefore, the medical self-government carries out many activities promoting vaccinations, including information campaigns about the risks of refraining from vaccinations.

Examples of activities of the Supreme Chamber of Physicians and Dentists in this matter:

- the position of the Supreme Medical Council of 31 August 2018 on the civic bill amending the act on preventing and combating infections and infectious diseases,
- meeting of the President of the Supreme Medical Council with the Chief Sanitary Inspector on 2 September 2018,
- meeting of members of the self-government with the Ombudsman of Patient Rights on 27 September 2018,
- appeal of the Board of the Supreme Medical Council of 4 October 2018 to MPs regarding the obligatory vaccinations,
- open letter to doctors and dentists of 5 October 2018,
- statement of the Presidents of Regional Medical Councils of 12 October 2018 on the promotion of the idea of vaccination.

Despite these clear and numerous expert opinions the Sejm (lower chamber of Polish parliament) did not reject this draft in the first reading, but forwarded it to the Commission of Health for further debate.

The Supreme Chamber of Physicians and Dentists will continue its campaign aimed at rejecting these draft as quickly as possible.



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