



European Medical Organisations stress the importance of the central role of medical doctors in the diagnosis, treatment, and coordination of multidisciplinary care.

High quality healthcare is delivered in complex teams of health professionals who each make their unique contribution to the best care for each patient. At the heart of this framework is the patient-doctor relationship. Accurate diagnosis for an individual patient and communication with the patient on the consequences of this diagnosis are key steps in that patient's care. Education in medicine gives a medical doctor the knowledge, as well as the practical and communication skills, that are essential in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disease. Individual steps and procedures along the path to an accurate diagnosis and an appropriate treatment can be safely delegated to other health professionals working within clear guidelines. However it is only a complete medical education that provides the integrated understanding which is key to adequate coordination of care in teams of multiple health professionals.

The undersigned European Medical Organisations stress the importance of the central role of medical doctors in the coordination of multidisciplinary care for two key reasons:

- 1) It is accepted best practice that diagnosis and treatment take place within an integrated network of care led and coordinated by a medical doctor. Care provided without a medical diagnosis and the appropriate treatment having been established by a medical doctor threatens quality and safety of healthcare.
- 2) In all European countries, medical doctors are at the centre of giving medical care, although healthcare organisations, employers and support systems also carry responsibility for providing adequate resources and conditions. Without a medical doctor at the centre of the care-giving network, the accountability for the diagnosis and treatment becomes unclear.

We trust the European Union Member States and European institutions will continue to assure that the organization of healthcare is based on clinical networks developed around the central role of medical doctors.



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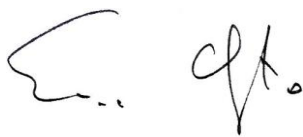
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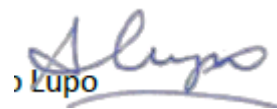
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