



**UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS OMNIPRACTICIENS/
MÉDECINS DE FAMILLE – EUROPEAN UNION OF GENERAL
PRACTITIONERS/FAMILY PHYSICIANS**

Dear UEMO Members,

This bulletin announces a variety of EU-related health topics including EU announcements related to healthcare, details of the payment model in Serbia, developments in Spain, the upcoming European Council agenda, and many more.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue!

Yours sincerely,

Calin BUMBULUT

UEMO President

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EU NEWS

I. NEW EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER LEADER BRINGS HOPE FOR HEALTH



The Lancet penned an editorial dedicated to the upcoming European Commission president, Ursula von der Leyen, where it envisages more investment on health at EU level given the fact that der Leyen has a medical doctorate and a Master in Public Health. According to The Lancet, she opened her guidelines for the 2019–24 session of the European Parliament with the statement “Europe is a unique aspiration. It is an aspiration of living in a natural and healthy continent.”

Some of her policy goals appear to back this up, leading as she does with a European Green Deal, pledging to make Europe a carbon-neutral continent by 2050, and to move towards a zero-pollution ambition.

Other mooted social interventions that will have an impact on poverty and public health include an EU-wide fair minimum wage and a European Child Guarantee, offering every at risk child access to free health-care and education. There are gender initiatives too, enshrining gender balance on corporate boards,

transparency in wages, and strong action against domestic violence.

A number of healthcare stakeholders – EHMA, EPF, EPHA, EUPHA – have expressed their approval towards the nomination of Ursula von der Leyen, hoping for a healthier future in Europe.

More information:

- [The Lancet Editorial](#)
- [Healthcare Stakeholders welcome Ursula von der Leyen](#)

II. EFSA FOUND HIDING HEALTH RISKS OF WORLD'S TOP SWEETENER



The world's favorite artificial sweetener may pose severe health risks, University of Sussex researchers have found. They claim that the European food authority has been bottling up the alarming data for a while.

The study focused on aspartame, an artificial sweetener used worldwide in everything from diet soft drinks to chewing gum, and sold under brand names including NutraSweet, Candarel and Equal.

UK researchers analyzed the most recent report regarding the safety of the



sweetener by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). They discovered that the panel dismissed the results of numerous studies detailing the harmful effects of the sweetener, while focusing their final assessment almost entirely on positive studies. For instance, out of the 73 papers that deemed aspartame dangerous, all 73 were thrown out by EFSA, while 84 percent of studies providing no evidence of its harm were found to be true.

Since 1974, when aspartame was approved for consumption in the United States, studies claimed that the sweetener caused a number of health problems, including liver and lung cancer, brain damage, and seizures.

More Information:

- Read full study here: [EFSA's toxicological assessment of aspartame: was it even-handedly trying to identify possible unreliable positives and unreliable negatives?](#)

III. EUROPEAN COUNCIL PUBLISHES AGENDA 2019- 2024



The European Council has published its Strategic Agenda for 2019-24 which provides an overall framework for the

EU's response to the challenges and opportunities presented by a world that is increasingly unsettled, complex and subject to rapid change. It is intended to guide the work of the European Institutions over the next five years and focuses on four main priorities:

1. Protecting citizens and freedoms;
2. Developing a strong and vibrant economic base;
3. Building a climate-neutral, green, fair and social Europe;
4. Promoting European interests and values on the global stage.

Priority #3 recognises the vital role that healthcare will play in building a climate-neutral, green, fair and social Europe as: Adequate social protection, inclusive labour markets and the promotion of cohesion will help Europe preserve its way of life, as will a high level of consumer protection and food standards, and good access to healthcare.

The agenda also recognizes that the far-reaching effects of digital transformation will further accelerate and that the EU's "policy must be shaped in a way that embodies our societal values, promotes inclusiveness, and remains compatible with our way of life. Accordingly, "the EU must work on all aspects of the digital revolution and artificial intelligence: infrastructure, connectivity, services, data, regulation and investment."

As the Strategic Agenda is the first step in a process that will be taken forward by the Institutions and the member states – still including the UK – we'll be working with European partners to ensure that the development of such policies reflect the interests of the medical profession.



More information:

- [A New Strategic Agenda 2019-2024](#)

V. THE PAYMENT MODEL IN PRIMARY HEALTHCARE IN SERBIA

IV. ECDC COMMUNICABLE DISEASE THREATS REPORT



- The ECDC Communicable Disease Threats Report (CDTR) is a weekly bulletin for epidemiologists and health professionals on active public health threats. This issue covers the period from 7-13 July 2019 and includes updates on Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV), Ebola virus disease, West Nile virus infection, acute neurological syndrome in Peru and a tuberculosis case on a cruise ship in the North Sea.

More information:

- [ECDC Report](#)



As Based on the Corrective Coefficient Regulation, the highest percentage increase in earnings based on performance (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia 113/18) is calculated in the primary health care according to the changed model of the capitation formula from 01.01.2019. The first application of the capitation formula as a payment model in the RS was in 2012 and since then it has been improved through practical experience.

When calculating earnings, the capitation formula (ranges 0-10) is used for physicians in the field of general medicine, gynecology, pediatrics and child and preventive dentistry. Medical nurses and technicians are given the grade of the selected doctor in whose team they are. All other employees in primary health care institutions are awarded a grade of 5.

The criteria of the capsule formulas for general medicine are:

Registration (the number of patients identified in relation to the average value in the Republic of Serbia with a corrective age factor and the population density factor) -which accounts for 30% of the overall rating

Efficiency (the number of visits of patients in the observed period with corrective factors for the development of the local community and the density of population) -which makes up 10% of the total rating

Quality (the level of fulfillment of the selected set of quality indicators in the observed period) –which makes up 60% of the overall rating

Quality indicators for general medicine are:

- the percentage of identified patients older than 45 years who were screened for type 2 diabetes in the last 3 years
- percentage of identified males between 39 and 69 years old and females between 45 and 69 years old who were screened for cardiovascular disease in the last five years
- the percentage of identified patients between the ages of 50 and 74 who were tested for occult bleeding in the chair for the last 2 years
- the percentage of identified patients over the age of 18 who have been screened for depression in the past year
- the percentage of hypertension patients who have undergone electrophysiological imaging (ECG) in the last 3 years
- percentage of patients with myocardial infarction who have undergone electrophysiological imaging (ECG) in the past year
- Indicators that are still followed in 2019 in general medicine and whose application in the capitation

formula will begin on 01.01.2020. are:

- percentage of identified patients older than 65 years who have been vaccinated against seasonal influenza
- the percentage of patients with diabetes who, at least once a year, determine the value of glycosidized hemoglobin in the blood
- the percentage of patients with diabetes who at least once a year determine the value of LDL cholesterol
- the percentage of patients with diabetes who had an eye examination at least once a year
- the percentage of people with diabetes who have been given advice on healthy behavior at least once a year
- the percentage of patients with diabetes whose blood pressure is measured at least once a year
- the percentage of people with diabetes who have been examined at least once a year
- the percentage of patients with hypertension who measured blood pressure in the past year
- percentage of patients with hypertension who have measured their cholesterol levels in the last year
- the percentage of patients with hypertension who have measured their glucose levels in the last year
- the percentage of patients with hypertension who received advice

regarding healthy behaviour in the past year

- percentage of patients with myocardial infarction who measured blood pressure in the past year
- percentage of patients with myocardial infarction who have determined overall cholesterol levels and fractions in the last year
- percentage of patients with myocardial infarction who have been measured their glucose levels in the past year
- the percentage of patients with myocardial infarction who received advice regarding healthy behaviour in the past year

More information:

- [Cross-border healthcare](#)
- [Study on cross-border healthcare](#)

VI. SPANISH DOCTORS ASK FOR INSTRUMENTS FOR INTEGRATION OF THE IMMIGRANT POPULATION IN AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY



The 6th European Day of the General Council of Medical Associations, dedicated on this edition to the analysis of the future challenges of immigration and

public health in the European Union, has yielded a series of conclusions of which it is worth mentioning that the attention of the Immigrants must remain integrated in national health systems, as they constitute a fundamental right of people without having to take into account their situation or origin. Hence, experts urge to put in place instruments that make possible the integration of the immigrant population in an inclusive society.

The Forum of the Medical Profession and Organizations of Patients request in the Ministry of Culture that the Doctor-Patient Relationship be recognized as "Intangible Cultural Heritage"

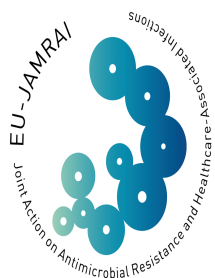
The Forum of the Medical Profession (FPME) and the three main Patient Organizations in Spain (General Alliance of Patients, Spanish Patients' Forum and the Platform of Patient Organizations) presented yesterday at the Ministry of Culture and Sports, the request for the Medical-Patient Relationship to be recognized as "Representative Manifestation" of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Spain.

More information:

- [Source 1 \(in Spanish\)](#)
- [Source 2 \(in Spanish\)](#)

UEMO NEWS

I. EU-JAMRAI 2ND ANNUAL MEETING AND STAKEHOLDER FORUM, 16-17 SEPTEMBER



Registration is open
2nd Annual Meeting and Stakeholder Forum

16th & 17th September 2019
Istituto Superiore di Sanità
Rome, Italy

Please complete the registration form at:
www.eu-jamrai.eu/events
before the 15th of July

UEMO was invited to take one or two representatives to the EU-JAMRAI 2nd annual meeting and stakeholders Forum will take place on 16-17 September at the Istituto Superiore di Sanità in Rome, Italy. This event is reserved for EU-JAMRAI partners and the members of the Advisory Committee and the Stakeholder Forum.

II. UEMO REPRESENTED IN EU-WIDE CAMPAIGN PROMOTING VACCINES



Dr Gindrovel Dumitra will represent UEMO in an EU-wide campaign promoting the benefit of vaccines in view of increasing coverage rates across Europe. The dissemination video, which will be published on the 2nd of September will feature a number of healthcare professionals who have directly dealt with hesitant patients when it comes to vaccination.

Dr Gindrovel's words: "My door is always open to parents and their children. In my village, I've met so many people who were worried about the side effects of vaccines. It's my responsibility to convince them to vaccinate their children against highly infectious diseases. Through the EU's expert groups, I've been able to share my immunisation work with colleagues in France, Poland, Switzerland, UK, Ireland, Italy and other European countries facing similar situations."

More information:

- [EMA's social awareness video](#)
- [State of Vaccine Confidence in the EU](#)
- [Vaccination Programmes and Health Systems in the EU](#)
- [The Organization and delivery of vaccination services in the EU](#)



III. FIRST ARTICLE ON HTA WRITTEN IN FRENCH AND GERMAN

Health Technology Assessment (HTA)



The first article about Healthcare Technology Assessment (HTA) was recently written and published in French and in German, with the contribution of UEMO. The paper, developed by Dr Daniel Widmer, Dr Patrick Ouvrard and Ms Marie-Christine Bonnamour breaks down the concept of HTA and why it is important for general practitioners. In an ever-changing paradigm across healthcare systems, it is highly important that primary care doctors are aware of HTA, how it works and how patients can benefit from it.

More information:

- [Full article in French](#)
- [Full article in German](#)

IV. EMA UPDATED WEBSITE INCLUDING UEMO AS REPRESENTATIVE MEMBER



Following last June's partnership between the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and UEMO, EMA has finally updated its website officially announcing UEMO as part of the Healthcare Professionals' Working Party. Tiago Villanueva (PT) and Mary McCarthy (UK) are the UEMO representatives announced on EMA's website.

More information:

- [Visit the dedicated EMA page](#)

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