

EAHP feedback to roadmap

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User type: Non-governmental organisation (NGO)

Organisation: European Association of Hospital Pharmacists (EAHP)

Organisation size: Small (10 to 49 employees)

Transparency register number: [82950919755-02](#)

Country of origin: Belgium

Initiative: [Europe's Beating Cancer Plan](#)

The European Association of Hospital Pharmacists (EAHP) welcomes the roadmap for Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and the goals and objectives outlined within it. Tackling cancer is an important goal to achieve better health and wellbeing in Europe and EAHP appreciates the opportunity to give feedback on the roadmap. Furthermore, EAHP would like to highlight the importance of involving all stakeholders and healthcare professionals in all stages of the process, in order to achieve these objectives as laid out in the roadmap. Both access to treatment and the growing burdens on European health systems are identified in the roadmap as issues which need to be tackled.

The involvement of hospital pharmacists in procurement supports the functional, safe, cost-effective and reliable design of the hospital formulary which is essential in order to achieve the goals of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan of access to treatment and care as laid out in the roadmap. Hospital pharmacists are also the healthcare professionals who are the most involved in managing medicines shortages in hospitals. As mentioned on page 2 of the roadmap under the heading 'Problem the initiative aims to tackle', medicines shortages, including shortages of oncology medicines, can have disastrous consequences, such as delay in treatment, for cancer patients as well as laying unnecessary burdens on healthcare systems as the use of alternatives can be costly and may have detrimental effects on patient outcomes. In light of this, EAHP proposes that Europe's Beating Cancer Plan should actively address the issue of medicines shortages. Furthermore, EAHP appreciates the emphasis on increased collaboration and teamwork within the health sector and different health professionals.

As well as the importance of training of healthcare workers. EAHP would like to highlight the need to ensure that such collaboration includes all health professionals and health actors, including hospital pharmacists, to truly achieve seamless, efficient and patient orientated care. The involvement and recognition of all healthcare professionals in all stages of the process of formulating and implementing Europe's Beating Cancer Plan is essential in order to achieve the objective of access to the best treatment for all, as outlined in the roadmap. EAHP also welcomes that the roadmap recognises the interconnectivity of the issue with other policies, such as eHealth. Furthermore, EAHP would like to draw attention to the issue of occupational health. Oncological medicines present certain dangers to both patients and to the healthcare professionals who handle them. This should be taken into account when considering the issue of occupational health in relation to Europe's Beating Cancer Plan.