



CHARTER ON REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN MEDICAL PROFESSION

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A profession is regulated when its practice is subject to the possession of a defined professional qualification¹.

The purpose of medical regulation is to protect citizens, ensuring that medicine is practiced by qualified individuals, with credentials that certify their continuing professional competence, generating social trust in medicine.

Considering its social importance, the medical profession should ideally be the responsibility of the Orders, Councils and Medical Chambers. This self-regulation would act in the interest of society.

The regulatory bodies define the values and professional rules applicable to the practice of the profession and to the social responsibility of physicians.

Over time, these rules must be adapted to the social, health, political and economic circumstances of each nation.

Effective, committed, independent and transparent self-regulation is a key element for the medical profession to maintain public legitimacy and the respect of society.

Considering the importance of, and the need for, professional self-regulation of physicians, the European Council of Medical Orders (CEOM) adopts the following principles:

1. The organisation representing the medical profession must have the authority of self-regulation.
2. The organisation in charge of self-regulating the medical profession must represent all physicians on its territory in order to guarantee a regulation without exclusion.
3. The organisation in charge of self-regulating the medical profession must ensure that the professional activities and conduct of physicians respect the public interest.
4. The regulatory bodies of these organisations must define the standards required for professional practice.

¹ Article 3 of the Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005 on the recognition of professional qualifications

5. Considering that only physicians themselves have the necessary knowledge to evaluate the core elements of health provision and to define norms and professional standards, the practice of the medical profession (both conduct and skills) must be defined with their participation.
6. The national systems of regulation of the medical profession in European countries must have common regulatory norms.
7. The regulation of the medical profession must be adapted to the administrative structures of each country, to their healthcare systems and to the medical professional organisations.
8. The regulatory systems of the medical profession must focus on professional competence, safety and the quality of healthcare provided to patients.
9. The professional activities and conduct of physicians should be subject to a code of professional ethics, in accordance with the general principles of medical ethics. Non-compliance with ethical standards must be corrected and sanctioned.
10. Physicians have a strict commitment to confidentiality, an essential condition to obtain patient confidence and establish a trustworthy relationship with patients. Physicians should not take advantage of the imbalance of medical knowledge between a doctor and their patient and must commit themselves to providing high quality healthcare.
11. Physicians must respect the fundamental principles of the medical profession, such as the primacy of the patients' well-being, respect of patient autonomy and the principle of social justice.
12. Physicians are obliged to actively participate in improving access to efficient, fair and quality healthcare.
13. The regulatory body must guarantee that physicians always take into account the economic aspects of medical treatment by considering the rational and efficient distribution of resources. Healthcare is a public good: its cost should not be a barrier to citizens.
14. The regulatory body should ensure that individuals or professional groups do not benefit from their influence to obtain private or corporate advantages.
15. Considering that it is essential that society trust the medical profession and each physician in particular, the regulatory body should ensure that physicians under its authority hold recognised professional qualifications, have specific high level and

complex knowledge, have exemplary integrity and respect the principles and values included in the Code of Medical Ethics.

16. Professional self-regulation must be socially acceptable, transparent and high performing.
17. The regulatory body must ensure that international training standards are applied, as well as the maintenance and updating of medical knowledge, professional skills and competencies, in order to ensure quality healthcare.