

Good practice in online prescribing

UK healthcare organisations including regulators, royal colleges and faculties have issued a set of principles to help protect patient safety and welfare when accessing potentially harmful medication online or over the phone.

The jointly agreed *High level principles for good practice in remote consultations and prescribing* set out the good practice expected of healthcare professionals when prescribing medication online.

The [ten principles](#), underpinned by existing standards and guidance, include that healthcare professionals are expected to:

- Understand how to identify vulnerable patients and take appropriate steps to protect them

- Carry out clinical assessments and medical record checks to ensure medication is safe and appropriate
- Raise concerns when adequate patient safeguards aren't in place

These principles apply to all healthcare professionals involved in providing consultations and medication to patients remotely, including doctors, nurses, pharmacists, dentists and opticians.

The publication follows the release, in September, of a joint statement by healthcare regulators, which included a commitment to work together with partner organisations to develop shared principles on remote consultations and prescribing.

European doctors raise awareness of violence against health professionals

Dr Jean-François RAULT, Secretary-General, CEOM

On March 12 of this year, European Medical Organisations (EMOs) marked the 1st ever European Awareness Day on Violence against Doctors and other Health Professionals. Health workers are increasingly confronted with situations of violence in their daily practice, even outside any context of conflict. This affects everyone. Patient safety and quality of care are endangered if health professionals are confronted with such risks.

European Medical Organisations have issued a [Joint Statement on Violence against Doctors and other Health Professionals](#) calling on governments and stakeholders to act on the urgent need to protect medical personnel in the performance of their missions. As a priority, the enforcement of existing laws to fight violence against professionals in the workplace must be improved. In support of this, EMOs have asked for the establishment of national reporting mechanisms across Europe, for the effective implementation of violence prevention programmes and assistance to victims and to ensure access to quality care for all patients by protecting the freedom and safety of medical personnel and healthcare facilities.

During its Plenary Meeting in Madrid in 2018, the European Council of Medical Orders (CEOM) adopted the [CEOM Statement on Violence against doctors and health professionals](#) and became the leading medical organisation in Europe addressing the issue of violence in healthcare settings. To widen the outreach of their advocacy, European Medical Organisations Presidents reunited in Lisbon in November, concluding on the necessity to create a joint working group under CEOM leadership, to reunite the EMOs efforts to fight all forms of violence against doctors and health professionals in

Europe. This working group aims to issue a joint statement condemning all forms of violence against professionals, to launch a joint investigation on violence against health professionals on a European scale and to launch a social media campaign on the work done by the group. Its members include:

- European Council of Medical Orders ([CEOM](#))
- Standing Committee of European Doctors ([CPME](#))
- European Federation of Salaried Doctors ([FEMS](#))
- European Association of Senior Hospital Physicians ([AEMH](#))
- European Union of Medical Specialists ([UEMS](#))
- European Union of General Practitioners ([UEMO](#))
- European Junior Doctors ([EJD](#))
- European Medical Students' Association ([EMSA](#))
- European working group of practitioners and specialists in free practice ([EANA](#))

About CEOM: *The purpose of the CEOM is to promote within the European Union and the European Free Trade Association the practice of high-quality medicine respectful of patients' needs. CEOM brings together the Medical Councils and the independent medical regulatory authorities of European Union Member States and the European Free Trade Association responsible for either, ethics and professional conduct, registration or licensing procedures, disciplinary matters regarding physicians, recognition of qualifications and levels of specialty, authorisation to practice and setting of professional standards. CEOM is the leading medical organisation in Europe addressing the issue of violence in healthcare settings.*