

Patient engagement in patient safety at a strategic international level

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Eucomed Breakfast Briefing
21 May 2008
Brussels, Belgium



Content of Presentation

- A short introduction to the International Alliance of Patients' Organizations (IAPO)

- Global issues for patients' organizations

- The role of patients' organizations in patient safety

- Current IAPO patient safety activities

- IAPO response to the European Commission

Consultation on Patient Safety

- Conclusions

About IAPO

- Unique global alliance of national, regional and international groups representing patients
- Established in 1999
- Crossing borders and diseases
- Vision: Patients throughout the world are at the centre of healthcare
- Representing an estimated 365 million patients worldwide
- www.patientsorganizations.org

IAPO's Mission

IAPO's role is built around the understanding that patients voices are amplified and heard effectively when patients' organizations are linked and connect resources to share best practices and practical strategies.

This role falls into three main areas following our mission to help build patient-centred healthcare in worldwide by:

1. **Realizing active partnerships with patients' organizations**, maximizing their impact through capacity building
2. **Advocating internationally** with a strong patients' voice on relevant aspects of healthcare policy, with the aim of influencing international, regional and national health agendas and policies
3. **Building cross-sector alliances** and working collaboratively with like-minded medical and health professionals, policy makers, academics, researchers and industry representatives

Global Issues for Patients' Organizations

- The massive issues of access to treatment and care
- Lack of meaningful patient involvement in health policy decision-making
- **The need for an international concerted effort to address patient safety**
- The need for quality health information and communication

The role of patient involvement

Patient groups and patients can make a valuable contribution:

- Raising public awareness, information provision and empowerment of patients to make an individual contribution to improving patient safety
- Identifying and training patient advocates to advocate for patient safety and partner with healthcare systems to develop regional and national policies that address patient safety
- High level global coordinated approach with other like-minded stakeholders aimed at raising political will to take action and implementing appropriate strategies

IAPO Patient Safety Activities:

- IAPO Global Patients Congress 2006 and 2008
- Member of Steering Group of Patients for Patient Safety, WHO World Alliance for Patient Safety
- Co-Chair Working Group on Communication - WHO International Medical Products Anti-Counterfeiting Taskforce (IMPACT)
- IAPO Patient Safety Toolkit
- Response to European Commission Consultation on Patient Safety

IAPO Response to European Commission Consultation on Patient Safety

Key Points:

- Attention should be paid to the role of patient to healthcare professional communication – patients sometimes see things that busy health professionals do not and should feel comfortable communicating concerns they may have.
- Educational initiatives to inform patients and the public about potential and actual patient safety incidents should be developed with the involvement of patients and patient groups - Patients for Patient Safety has developed a good model for supported patient involvement on patient safety issues.

IAPO Response to European Commission Consultation on Patient Safety

Key Points:

- It is important that initiatives are developed in coordination with all healthcare stakeholders including patient groups, health professional organizations, research institutions and regulatory institutions.
- The European Community should work closely with the World Health Organization to support European countries so that there is sharing of expertise and resources and to minimise duplication of efforts and resources.

To conclude

- Patients' organizations can make a valuable contribution to improving patient safety sharing knowledge and resources and providing a strong unified voice
- All those involved in health and healthcare have a role to play and IAPO strongly supports coordinated multi-stakeholder and multi-level approaches to patient safety
- We look forward to working with you all in these important efforts

Contact us



Please visit our website to find out more:

www.patientsorganizations.org

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