

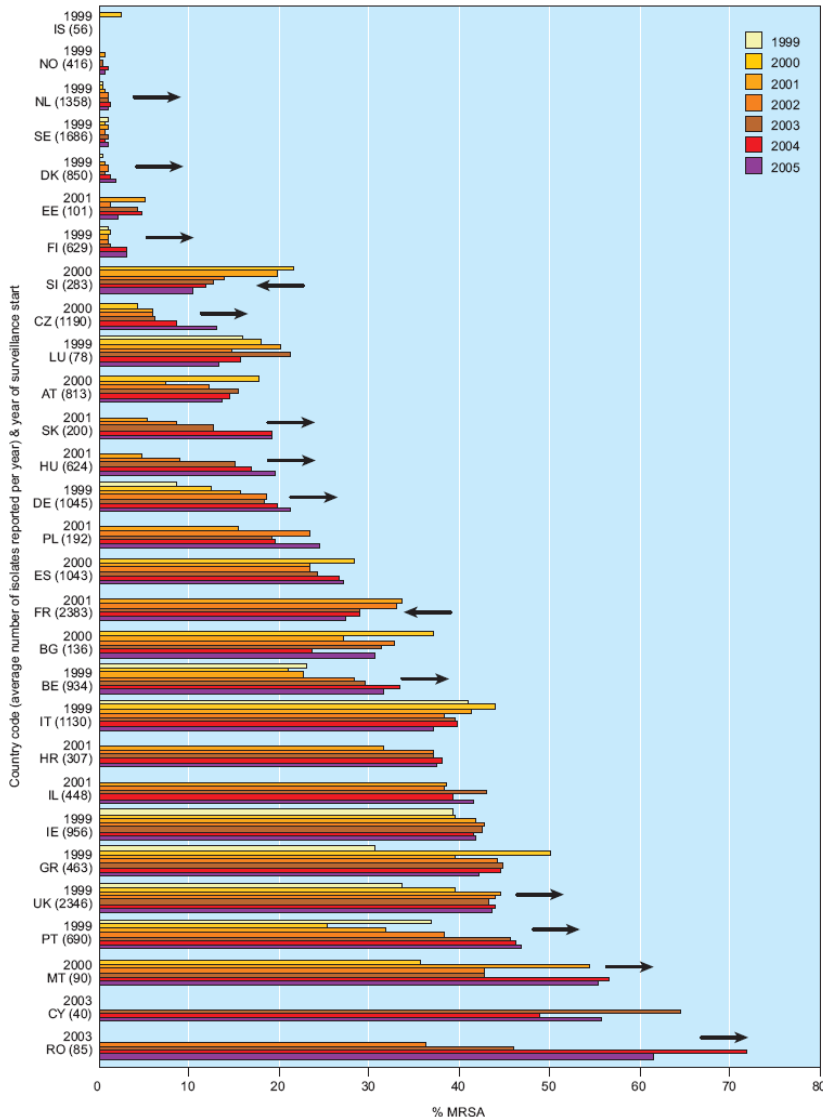
Patient safety consultation

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Why patient safety?

MRSA prevalence by country, 1999-2005



- ▶ As many as 10 per cent of hospital admissions involve some kind of injury, infections or physical harm to patients

Patient safety issues: Healthcare Associated Infections

- ▶ A health crisis with an estimated three million infections and 50,000 deaths attributable to them each year in the EU
- ▶ The direct and indirect costs of Healthcare Associated Infections (HCAIs) have been estimated at EUR 11 billion per year¹
- ▶ Healthcare associated infections concern both Health Policy and Employment Policy in the EU
- ▶ EU Treaty Article 152 requires that standards for the protection of EU citizens are set ensuring adequate protection of all workers, including doctors, nurses and other hospital staff
- ▶ Simple and innovative medical devices reduce the risk of a number of patient safety problems and help in bringing down the number of HCAIs



Patient safety issues: Reprocessing of single-use medical devices



- ▶ Single-use medical devices were developed specifically to reduce the risk of healthcare infections
- ▶ An increasingly large number of hospitals in the European Union reprocess and reuse medical devices designed for single-use
- ▶ Informing the patient and providing a choice should be standard practice
- ▶ Price as the principal driver of purchasing decisions risks overlooking other very important aspects of medical devices: enhanced safety features and manufacturer provided education, training and after-sales support
- ▶ Possible consequences for the patient:
 - Patient injury and repeat surgery or intervention
 - Repeated diagnostic tests
 - Increased use of antibiotics
 - Patient incapacity (absence from work, etc.)
- ▶ False economy: adverse events end up costing more than the saving on re-using devices

The European Union's role

- ▶ Patient safety is an area where the EU can undoubtedly make a difference for Member States and their citizens
- ▶ Co-ordination and sharing of experience are significant factors in improving the situation
- ▶ Provide a forum for Member States to exchange best practice
- ▶ Introduce patient safety minimum standards
- ▶ Research and project funding for safety research and initiatives



Actions across Europe



- ▶ Raise awareness about risks, and procedures already in place to ensure patient safety
- ▶ Patients should have full information to hand simply and quickly
- ▶ Offer patient safety training to healthcare professionals
- ▶ Ensure that hospitals are not using, or not directed to use single use medical devices more than once
- ▶ Prioritise the use of modern medical technology that incorporates design features to reduce risks to patients and healthcare staff

Conclusion

- ▶ Eucomed supports government policies that promote access of patients and clinician choice to the benefits of safe, cost-effective and reliable medical technology
- ▶ Patients should be consulted and involved in the development of patient safety policies and programmes through representation by relevant patient groups
- ▶ Patients should be informed about choices of best available technologies for treatment

► All materials available at www.eucomed.org