

Brussels, 10 October 2016

Dear colleague,

Invitation to the European Patients' Forum Conference "Patient and Family Empowerment for Better Patient Safety", Brussels, 8-9 November 2016

On behalf of the European Patients' Forum, we are delighted to invite you to participate in our forthcoming conference "Patient and Family Empowerment for Better Patient Safety".

Patients have a fundamental right to expect their care to be safe. Yet, improving the safety of healthcare remains a formidable challenge: healthcare-related adverse events occur in around 8-12% of hospitalisations, and a 2006 Eurobarometer survey showed that 23% of respondents had been directly affected by medical error, 18% had experienced a serious error in a hospital, and 11% had been prescribed the wrong medication.

Good patient and family empowerment help improve these figures? To ensure care services are designed around patients' needs, meaningful patient involvement is necessary at all levels in the system. However, in the area of safety, there are specific challenges that need to be addressed.

Objectives of the conference

This conference will take forward EPF's long standing work in advocacy the field of patient safety and quality of care, as well as our thematic Campaign on Patient Empowerment (2015-16). We are especially concerned that patient safety may in future no longer be considered a priority topic in EU health policy, as we believe it should be. Thus the main objectives of the conference are:

- to raise awareness across the EU Institutions, Member States and stakeholders about the vital importance of patient safety and of empowering patients and families;
- to provide a platform for discussion of specific issues regarding patient empowerment in the context of safety from a number of different viewpoints;
- to identify knowledge gaps and opportunities for further study; and
- to take the first steps towards developing a set of 'core competencies' for patients and families in the area of patient safety, thus supporting the implementation of the EU Council recommendation on patient safety (2009).

Format of and programme

The conference will take place over two days in Brussels and is structured to include a mix of plenary sessions, interactive discussions and parallel workshops. Please see attached draft programme for more information.

Who should attend?

We welcome all participants with an interest in and commitment to patient safety and patient empowerment, including representatives of patient and consumer organisations, health professionals, healthcare and hospital managers, representatives of EU Member States' governments and national patient safety and quality bodies, EU-level decision-makers, academics and industry representatives.

Registration and travel

Please note that places at the conference are limited and will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis. EPF is not able to reimburse travel costs for conference participants.

For more information and registration [click here](#).

We would be delighted if you could join us at this important event and look forward to seeing you in Brussels in November.

Yours sincerely,



Marco Greco
President



Nicola Bedlington
Secretary-General