



Document AEMH 10-032« AEMH Statement on Prescription by Nurses »
Adopted at the 63rd AEMH Plenary meeting in Lisbon 8 May 2010

Statement by the AEMH on “Prescription by Nurses”

Whereas:

- Prescribing is not just writing. A prescription is a document indicating a commitment for health care between physician and patient. With a prescription, the physician is not only taking responsibility for development of the disease but also for any interaction resulting from the drug being prescribed and any secondary effects it might have. A good prescription must therefore be based on medical diagnosis.
- The use of health care products for nursing practice cannot be confused with the prescription of drugs, because a prescription requires a prior clinical diagnosis.
- Medical Associations are obliged to inform the general public of the risks involved in such measures, including the possibility that patients will be divided into different classes, depending on who provides care for them.
- The role being played by political parties, which are converting a professional matter into a political one, should be rejected.
- There are serious concerns about nurses’ knowledge on interactions between drugs, especially in polymedicated patients.

Therefore:

The Plenary Assembly of the European Association of Senior Hospital Physicians urges the Spanish authorities to respect the freedom of prescription of physicians and to not entitle other health care professionals to prescribe drugs, for which only physicians have the necessary training. The Association warns them of the serious risks for patients who are placed in the hands of people lacking the necessary knowledge to diagnose processes and diseases, this being the essential first step before drugs can be prescribed.

The AEMH is a professional association of and for European hospital physicians, who have final responsibility for the patients, with the primary goal to improve all aspects of hospital life in Europe.