

ASSOCIATION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS DES HÔPITAUX **EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SENIOR HOSPITAL PHYSICIANS** EUROPÄISCHE VEREINIGUNG DER LEITENDEN KRANKENHAUSÄRZTE **EUROPESE VERENIGING VAN STAFARTSEN** DEN EUROPÆISKE OVERLÆGEFORENING ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟΣ ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΣ ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΑΚΩΝ ΙΔΤΡΩΝ ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΤΩΝ ASSOCIAZIONE EUROPEA DEI MEDICI OSPEDALIERI **DEN EUROPEISKE OVERLEGEFORENING** ASSOCIAÇÃO EUROPEIA DOS MÉDICOS HOSPITALARES ASOCIACIÓN EUROPEA DE MÉDICOS DE HOSPITALES **EUROPEISKA ÖVERLÄKARFÖRENINGEN** EVROPSKO ZDRŽENJE BOLNIŠNIČNIH ZDRAVINIKOV **EUROPSKA ASOCIACIA NEMOCNICNÝCH LEKAROV** EUROPSKA UDRUGA BOLNIČKIH LIJEČNIKA ЕВРОПЕЙСКА АСОЦИАЦИЯ НА СТАРШИТЕ БОЛНИЧНИ ЛЕКАРИ ASOCIATIA EUROPEANA A MEDICILOR DIN SPITALE

Document :	AEMH 12-040
Title:	National Report Report Austria
Author:	AEMH European Liaison Office
Purpose :	Information
Distribution :	AEMH Member Delegations
Date :	11 May 2011

FEMS/AEMH/EJD-PWG National report AUSTRIA, May 2012

1. REDUCTION OF WORKING TIME

The Austrian Federal Body of employed doctors has recently conducted a survey among hospital doctors, where, in view of the current situation, the question concerning the maximum working period has been included to the questionnaire.

The outcome of the survey shows that a high percentage (three quarters) of the interviewees has spoken in favor of a reduction of working hours.

Long hospital shifts are regarded as critical both in terms of employee-protection and patient safety. The Austrian Medical Chamber therefore calls for a limitation of working hours to a maximum of 25 h/hospital shift.

2. ACT ON MEDICAL CARE ESTABLISHMENTS AND ON HEALTH RESORTS

The Austrian Medical Chamber was strongly against the proposal, introduced by Minister of Health, Alois Stöger, that chief physicians shall be responsible for more than one senior management position.

The Austrian Federal Body of Employed Doctors therefore came to the unanimous conclusion that the Act on medical care establishments and on health resorts shall be amended in order to prevent deterioration of quality of health care.

Chief physicians, who have to hold more than one senior management position won't be able to focus on the specific areas of activity which eventually might lead to a negative influence on the performance, medical training and the quality of healthcare. Furthermore this would contradict both the responsible exercise of the medical profession as well as fundamental ethical principles.

3. EUROPEAN HEALTH RECORDS (ELGA)

In Austria, a major legal act which aims at establishing a national system of electronic health records (EHR) is currently under review.

The draft law submitted by the Federal Ministry of Health is still harshly criticised by the Austrian Medical Chamber and other stakeholders as well. The draft in its present form would not bring about significant improvement to the current situation, in fact, it will complicate the doctor-patient communication.

Furthermore, it does not offer sufficient protection of health data against unauthorized access. Given the highly sensitive nature of health related data, however, it must be ensured that this kind of information is not misused.

All open questions have to be clarified before the draft is adopted by parliament, particularly questions with regard to costs, benefit, liability or data protection.

4. CIRS

On the initiative of the Austrian Medical Chamber, a critical incident reporting and learning system (CIRS) was implemented more than two years ago and since its introduction has proven to be a very successful tool.

The http://www.cirsmedical.at/ system, provided by the Austrian Medical Chamber, allows all health care professionals to anonymously report safety-relevant incidents, such as errors, near misses, discovered risks or critical as well as unwanted incidents and to have them commented by experts. It is the objective to learn from experiences made by others and thus enhance management of critical events in health care, which in turn improves patient and health care professional safety.

Vienna, May 2012

KAD Dr. S/Univ.Doz.Dr.Hawliczek/Prof.Dr.Spath/nh