



PRESS RELEASE

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European Pharmacists Forum publishes White Paper: “The role of pharmacy in supporting the public’s health”

The European Pharmacists Forum (EPF) has today published its first ever White Paper entitled - “The role of pharmacy in supporting the public’s health” - in which it identifies five key healthcare areas where pharmacies will be able to make the maximum impact on improving the health of the population.

Launched at an EPF Seminar in Brussels, attended by delegates from across 15 countries, key recommendations from the Paper will be communicated to European policy makers and governmental organizations.

The five key healthcare areas, identified by the Paper, where pharmacies will be able to make the maximum impact on improving the health of the population are the following:

- **Medicines adherence:** Pharmacists help patients understand their medicines and how best to take them. This improves adherence rates, leading to better clinical outcomes.
- **Vaccinations:** Allowing pharmacists to administer vaccines increases uptake rates enabling health systems to meet their population coverage targets.
- **Screening:** Pharmacies can identify those people at higher risk of diseases at an early stage to allow cost-effective interventions.
- **Self-care:** Helping the public to look after themselves reduces the pressure on other care providers, as well as reducing costs to health systems.
- **Disease prevention:** The convenient location of pharmacies allows them to deliver public health services that can change behaviors and encourage healthy lifestyles among the population.

Ornella Barra, Executive Vice President, President and Chief Executive of Global Wholesale & International Retail of Walgreens Boots Alliance, commented: “Pharmacy is the natural home for the delivery of community based health services. We want the public to consider community pharmacies as their first port of call, helping to ensure that healthcare remains sustainable and accessible to all. We welcome this White Paper and its intention to promote the value of community pharmacy.”

Marco Nocentini Mungai, President of the EPF, said: “The EPF has a vision that over the next decade community pharmacies will take on a much greater role in addressing healthcare challenges. Services will need to be developed at scale, so that they are making a real difference to the health of the population as a whole. In our “Call to Action”, we seek to work collaboratively with health systems, governments and pharmacy bodies to make this vision a reality. We ask you to join us in this essential work.”

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Notes to Editors:**About the European Pharmacists Forum:**

The European Pharmacists Forum was established in 1999. Its main aims are to support a European and transversal approach to the profession, to bring together pharmacists to discuss new ideas and share key messages, as well as to facilitate positive dialogue with public authorities and manufacturers. Walgreens Boots Alliance sponsorship of the Forum highlights its commitment to pharmacists and its desire to be seen by the healthcare sector as a key partner.

The members, who meet on a quarterly basis, represent 10 countries: the UK, France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Turkey, the Czech Republic, The Netherlands, Switzerland and Germany.

For more information, visit: www.europeanpharmacistsforum.com

Media enquiries:

Laura Vergani/Katie Johnson, +44 (0)20 7980 8585