

Celesio Policy Position

Our Vision for Community Pharmacy in the Future

June 2016

Background

With an average of one for every 3,300 people the EU's community pharmacies play a role in providing access to primary healthcare for millions of patients every day. **Celesio AG** owns over 2,200 pharmacies in six European countries¹ and as a wholesaler provides products and services to 65,000 pharmacies and hospitals in Europe. We firmly believe that pharmacies and their healthcare teams remain an under-used resource: community pharmacies can offer solutions to relieve the growing burden on healthcare systems, while contributing to cost-effective solutions for better overall patient outcomes.



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The EU's public health challenges

All EU countries face similar challenges when it comes to future healthcare:

- Populations are ageing
- The burden of chronic diseases is rising
- Public healthcare expenditure growth is unsustainable
- In many countries the number of healthcare professionals is not sufficient
- Digital technologies are changing patient behaviour
- Patients' needs are changing, with many requiring more support in their homes
- Poor adherence to medicines contributes to further healthcare demands

Faced with these trends, national healthcare policy makers must rethink how they provide healthcare and medicines to their populations, if they are to remain sustainable.

¹ Belgium, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Sweden, UK

How community pharmacies can offer solutions

Celesio therefore asks EU and national policymakers to support an expanded role for community pharmacies beyond their current core role of dispensing medicines. With an average of five years of professional training, a qualified pharmacist is an ideal first point of contact for any patient seeking primary care, triage or minor ailment support. They are an expert in self-care and medicines (e.g. compliance, storage, multi-pharma). A pharmacist advises customers how to use medicines correctly and prevent diseases and may organise dedicated days for certain themes such as pain, diet or skin care. Community pharmacies are highly affordable and accessible healthcare hubs, offering their medical expertise at a relatively low cost and without an appointment. This can reduce pressure on doctors and Accident and Emergency hospitals units, allowing those professionals to focus on patients in the most need, thereby saving public money.

In some countries, community pharmacies already play an expanded role (see our online Annex), but in others political action is needed to enable them to provide services such as:

- **Supervising and managing patient adherence to medication regimes**, e.g. Medicines Use Reviews, chemotherapy, inhalation, diabetes equipment
- **Dispensing certain restricted medicines**, e.g. biologics, medicines currently reserved for hospitals or prescription-only medicines in cases of emergencies
- **Supporting independent living and self-care**
- **Playing an active role in disease prevention**, e.g. epidemiological screening
- **Supporting long-term condition management through the delivery of medicines optimisation**
- **Participating in public health awareness campaigns and medication programmes**, e.g. flu vaccinations or immunisation programmes
- **Contributing to a digital ecosystem that interconnects the digital and physical worlds** and enables the development of national eHealth systems
- **Supporting and collaborating with other primary healthcare professionals for better outcomes for patients**

With this support from healthcare policy makers and better integrated healthcare policies, Europe's community pharmacies can contribute in a significant way towards making all our healthcare systems more sustainable. This would improve accessibility and health outcomes for all patients.

About Celesio

With more than 38,000 employees, Celesio operates in twelve European countries. Every day, the group serves over 2 million customers – at about 2,200 pharmacies of its own in six European countries and over 4,300 participants in brand partnership schemes. With 133 wholesale branches, Celesio supplies 65,000 pharmacies and hospitals every day with up to 130,000 pharmaceutical products. The services benefit a patient pool of about 15 million per day.

Facts and Figures

Please see our online Annex at <http://www.celesio.com/ag-en/company/external-affairs>

Our key messages

Policy makers should make better use of community pharmacy in primary care planning

No other part of the primary healthcare infrastructure is as accessible as community pharmacy

There is growing evidence that community pharmacy can deliver a range of patient-focused interventions leading to better health outcomes



Celesio Markets in Europe