



SIP

Societal Impact of Pain

2017

**Structured Cooperation
between Health Care
Systems tackling the
societal impact of pain!**

Working group 1
Pain as a quality indicator for
health care systems

Main findings & recommendations

We recommend...

- The European Commission should follow up on commitments made by national governments at the informal Council of EU Health Ministers in Milan, 22 September 2014, by using uniform quality indicators on pain management to facilitate the sharing of best practices.
- National governments and health authorities should make the organisational changes required to ensure that patients are granted access to all specific and individualized pain treatments, including establishing quality indicators to set criteria for granting access to healthcare, including cross-border healthcare.
- National governments and health authorities should prioritise pain care within medical training to physicians, the education of nurses and other healthcare professionals to secure the development of pain expertise.

We also recommend...

- National governments and health authorities along with patient organisations should initiate patient education programmes and information campaigns in order to create public awareness of the short and long-term consequences of undertreated pain symptoms, reduce stigma and increase self-management.
- National governments and health authorities along with patient experts should set clear guidelines on how the regular assessment of pain should be performed and by which means. This would improve direct patient care, facilitate the creation of national high quality health data registries and hence the exchange of information and the creation of international guidelines.
- National governments and health authorities should be fully aware of the problem of untreated pain and should balance the chance of adverse effects and the misuse of medication against the genuine needs of patients.

We also recommend...

- National governments and health authorities should ensure that health records, including electronic health records take pain into account.
- A European week of uniform pain assessment should be promoted. It should address both short term and long-term pain assessment, taking into account post-operative pain and chronic post-operative pain in the patients who were operated 12 months before.



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