

## Educational Needs

### *Special Interest Group Working Towards Eliminating Avoidable Harm*

Clinical pharmacy and multi-professional work at the point of care are still error prone. The Special Interest Group (SIG) Working Towards Eliminating Avoidable Harm has identified educational gaps in the training of hospital pharmacists, other healthcare professionals working in hospitals and decision-makers. Closing these gaps could help lower medication-related harm in European hospitals as envisioned by the “Medication Without Harm” Initiative of the World Health Organization (WHO).

Educational gaps must be closed at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. To achieve this basic pharmacy education needs to be strongly focused on transmitting skills that increase patient safety and foster the detection of avoidable harm. Students should internalise that the safety culture in hospitals is blame-free, ensures that leaders advocate for incident reporting, enables continuous analysis of harmful incidents and addresses identified risks. In addition, they should be familiarised with applicable standards and educated in a multidisciplinary environment together with future healthcare professionals from other disciplines.

Life-long learning of hospital pharmacists and other health professionals must be viewed and treated as a continuum. Thus, it should be used to deepen the knowledge acquired at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels when it comes to addressing different types of errors linked to human or technical resources and institutional problems.