



## PGEU PRESS RELEASE

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# European Pharmacists call for essential elements of Cross-Border Prescriptions to be 'comprehensive'

For Immediate Release

**The Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union (PGEU)** is the European association representing more than 400,000 community pharmacists.

PGEU's members are the national associations and professional bodies of pharmacists in 32 European countries, including EU Member States, EEA members and EU applicant countries.

To download the PGEU Policy Statement on the Recognition of Cross-Border Prescriptions please [click here](#).

For more information, please visit the PGEU website [www.pgeu.eu](http://www.pgeu.eu) or contact Ms Giovanna Giacomuzzi, PGEU Communications and Policy Officer (tel. +32 2 238 08 18).



In the light of the recent adoption of the Directive on Patients' Rights in Cross-Border Healthcare, the Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union (PGEU) has called for a comprehensive approach to cross-border prescriptions.

Under the terms of the Directive, the European Commission will develop key features of the cross-border prescription system, including a non-exhaustive list of elements to be included in prescriptions.

In a study of European prescription practices undertaken in 2009, PGEU found that prescriptions varied significantly across the EU, including different required information, validity periods, numbers of permitted items prescribed and the kind of forms that can be used to write prescriptions.

In a statement adopted on the 21<sup>st</sup> March, PGEU points to various difficulties inherent in a cross-border prescription system, including medicines with different brand names, and the difficulties in identifying prescribers from other countries.

The statement calls for the list of essential elements to be developed by the Commission to take into account the full range of EU practices with regard to prescriptions, including: **Prescription by International Non-proprietary Names (INN), Medicine Indication, Authentication and Validity of Prescription and Identification of Dispenser.**

Illustration of a PGEU suggested European prescription in the context of cross-border care

<b>Patient</b>	Name:	Date of birth: DD/MM/YYYY	Gender
	Address, telephone: ID/Health Card No.:		F <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Prescriber</b>	Name:	ID/License No.:	If applicable:
	Address:		Digital Signature
	Phone No.: (country code + number) Email:		
Remarks to other HCP:			
<b>Medication Prescribed</b>		<b>Medication Dispensed</b>	
INN: Form: Indication: Dosage: How to take: Number of prescription repeats (if applicable):	Strength:  Duration of treatment:	No. of items:	Brand name: Form: Strength: No. of items: How to take: Additional remarks:
Issuing Date: DD/MM/YYYY	Issuing Place: City, Country	Validity Period: In months	Authentication feature:
<b>Pharmacist</b>	Name:	ID/License No.:	If applicable:
	Pharmacy name and address: Phone No.: (country code + number) Email:		Digital Signature
Dispensing Date: DD/MM/YYYY			

PGEU Secretary General John Chave said: "Any partial harmonization of prescriptions via a list of essential elements should be as comprehensive as possible so as to help guarantee patient safety and continuity of care in the cross-border health context. Any approach which merely adopts the bare minimum may cause immense confusion, and may undermine the recognition process. Certain elements such as the prescription by INN are essential if a prescription needs to move from one country to another. Our template could be used as the basis of the Commission's approach to developing the key features of cross-border prescriptions."



**PGEU GPUE** *Groupement Pharmaceutique de l'Union Européenne*  
*Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union*

