



## PGEU PRESS RELEASE

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# European Pharmacists release Best Practice Paper on Communicable Diseases and Vaccination

**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/EFTA members and EU applicant countries.

For more information, please visit the PGEU website [www.pgeu.eu](http://www.pgeu.eu) or contact [pharmacy@pgeu.eu](mailto:pharmacy@pgeu.eu)



### PGEU Best Practice Paper: **Communicable Diseases and Vaccination**

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of April, the European Commission published its Communication on Communicable Diseases and Vaccination. This follows a call for the need to tackle vaccine hesitancy and increase coverage across the Union in President Jean-Claude Juncker's recent 2017 State of the Union speech.

In response to this, the Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union (PGEU) published a **Best Practice Paper on Communicable Diseases and Vaccination** in order to highlight the role community pharmacists play in tackling communicable and vaccine-preventable diseases across Europe. PGEU Secretary General Ilaria Passarani stated: *"As the most accessible healthcare professionals in Europe, community pharmacists are ideally placed within primary healthcare systems to offer support for communicable and vaccine-preventable diseases. Community pharmacists should be allowed to provide innovative services to address the dual burden of communicable diseases and vaccination hesitancy in Europe"*.

The paper provides an overview of the best practices, activities and services community pharmacists provide with respect to communicable and vaccine-preventable diseases, as well as several key recommendations:



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|  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. European institutions and agencies are encouraged to continue and strengthen collaboration with community pharmacists and pharmacy organisations at European level, for example in the Joint Actions on Antimicrobial Resistance and Vaccination;</li><li>2. National governments are called-upon to include and integrate community pharmacists into national vaccination strategies;</li><li>3. Pharmacists should be enabled to provide new and innovative services in response to the threat posed by communicable diseases and vaccine hesitancy;</li><li>4. Pharmacists should be better integrated into primary healthcare systems and services, for example, integration of electronic health records to facilitate efficient notification of pharmacists' interventions to the patient's medical record;</li><li>5. Services, such as vaccinations should be globally commissioned within national health systems;</li><li>6. Pharmacists should be encouraged to vaccinate themselves against influenza.</li></ol> |
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