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UEMO Newsletter

October 2026



Focus on UEMO General Assembly

GPs and European Health Technology Assessment – Publication



Article

Role of General Practitioners in European Health Technology Assessment, EU-HTA Innovation in Oncology as an Example

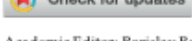
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Abstract

Introduction: Different from established clinical guideline workstreams, the participation of general practitioners (GPs) in the health technology assessment (HTA) process at the European level is new. There is a research gap in this domain. The European Union of General Practitioners (UEMO) is the political association of GPs in Europe and has been collaborating as a stakeholder in the creation of the European Regulation on HTA since 2017. The aim of our research is to provide a framework for GPs' role in EU HTA. **Methods:** Mixed methods: questionnaire and focus groups. **Participants:** Representatives of national medical/GP associations of 17 Member States of the EU and five EU non-member countries. **Results:** Most respondents supported GP involvement in the development of clinical recommendations relevant to general practice. Respondents emphasized that UEMO must turn to WONCA-Europe, the academic society of GPs, when scientific input is required. Among the ten priority topics for HTA in oncology, four emerged as most relevant for the GPs: 1. Conscientious prescription of interventions considering over- and under-medicalization, 2. establishing a system for continuity of care integrating palliative care, 3. ensuring evidence-based medicine, and 4. promoting collaborative care and considering workload. **Discussion and Conclusions:** The GP can contribute to the debate by defending these four priorities. Presenting the difficulties in this debate can contribute to a better understanding of the implementation of new technology in the real world.

Keywords: health technology assessment; family medicine; public health; drug monitoring; quaternary prevention



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UEMO is pleased to announce a new peer-reviewed article, co-authored by several UEMO delegates, on the role of General Practitioners in European Health Technology Assessment (EU-HTA), using oncology as a case example.

Published on 21 September 2026 in the Journal of Market Access & Health Policy (open access), the study was authored by Daniel Widmer, Hermenegildo Marcos Carrera, Jörg Ruof, Gunasekara Vidanasmestrige Chamath Fernando, Patrick Ouvrard, Marie-Christine Bonnamour, Mary McCarthy and Shrikant Atreya, and developed in collaboration with WONCA Europe's SIG on Cancer & Palliative Care and the European Access Academy.

Based on a UEMO-wide questionnaire and focus groups, the research identifies four priorities GPs should defend in EU-HTA discussions: conscientious prescription (avoiding over- and under-medicalization), continuity of care integrating palliative care, balanced evidence-based medicine, and collaborative care that accounts for workload.

The findings reaffirm UEMO's role as a stakeholder in the EU-HTA process since 2017, and support continued collaboration with WONCA on future expert evaluations.

[Article available here](#)

UEMO News

UEMO General Assembly in Portugal - 30 & 31 October 2026

UEMO will hold its General Assembly in Óbidos, Portugal, **on the 30th and the 31 of October**, with the presence of delegations from our European members, new medical associations, Portuguese officials, and more.

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UEMO supports European Myeloma Day 2026: helping GPs spot myeloma earlier

27 September 2026 marks European Myeloma Day, and UEMO is proud to support Myeloma Patients Europe (MPE) in raising awareness of one of the hardest cancers to diagnose early.

Myeloma is a rare bone marrow cancer, with around 50,000 new cases diagnosed across Europe each year. Its symptoms- bone pain, fatigue, recurrent infections, and unexplained anaemia- are easily mistaken for more common conditions, and general practice is where the diagnostic journey usually begins.

MPE's own research found that a myeloma diagnosis can take over five months, involving more than four medical consultations and visits to at least three different specialists. Earlier recognition at primary care level can shorten that journey significantly and improve outcomes for patients.

The MPE Myeloma Diagnosis Pathway

To support GPs and family doctors, MPE has developed the Myeloma Diagnosis Pathway, a free, one-page clinical reference covering:

- The signs and symptoms that should prompt suspicion of myeloma (the CRAB criteria: elevated Calcium, Renal impairment, Anaemia, Bone disease)
- The tests and investigations to consider
- Referral pathways once myeloma is suspected

It is available to download free of charge in more than 15 languages.

Get involved

UEMO encourages its member associations and GP networks to download, print and display the Myeloma Diagnosis Pathway in their practices, and to share the campaign on social media using #EuropeanMyelomaDay.

Download the MPE Myeloma Diagnosis Pathway

[Access the Pathway](#)

UEMO Statement on the Adoption of the European Parliament Report on the EU Health Workforce

The European Union of General Practitioners/Family Physicians (UEMO) warmly welcomes the adoption by the European Parliament of a resolution on an EU health workforce crisis plan on 17 September 2026. The report represents an important political recognition of the growing workforce challenges facing healthcare systems across Europe and the urgent need for coordinated action at both European and national levels.

UEMO particularly welcomes the report's acknowledgement of primary care's central role in delivering accessible, efficient, and person-centred healthcare, as well as its recognition of general practitioners/family physicians' essential contribution to the sustainability and resilience of health systems. The explicit reference to the importance of continuity of care reflects a core principle of high-quality healthcare and a defining characteristic of family medicine.

Across Europe, family doctors provide comprehensive, coordinated and continuous care throughout the life course. Strong primary care systems are associated with better health outcomes, greater equity, improved patient satisfaction and more efficient use of healthcare resources. Continuity of care strengthens the therapeutic relationship between patients and their family physicians, improves safety and quality, and contributes to better management of chronic conditions and multimorbidity.

At a time when many countries face shortages of healthcare professionals, increasing demand for care, and growing pressures on health services, investment in primary care and family medicine must be a central component of any health workforce strategy. UEMO therefore welcomes the report's emphasis on recruitment, retention and resilience of the healthcare workforce, together with measures to improve working conditions, education and training, professional wellbeing and long-term workforce planning.

UEMO calls on the European Commission and Member States to build on the momentum created by this parliamentary vote and translate the report's recommendations into concrete actions. This should include stronger support for community-based primary care, policies that make family medicine an attractive and sustainable career choice, and measures that preserve continuity of care as a cornerstone of effective healthcare systems.

Adopting this report sends a strong signal that Europe's healthcare workforce crisis requires urgent, coordinated action. UEMO stands ready to work with European institutions, national governments and healthcare stakeholders to ensure that family physicians and primary care are at the heart of future health workforce policies, for the benefit of patients and communities across Europe.

[UEMO news](#)

EACCME Accredited Provider Status: Applications Now Open

The EACCME (European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education) has launched a new accreditation pathway for CME/CPD providers. Applications are open now, and the first accreditation period starts in January 2027.

[All the information here](#)



EU News

New JCA eligibility checker and updated guidance

The European Commission has updated its guidance on submitting early information for joint clinical assessments (JCA) of medicinal products. A new JCA eligibility checker is also available, to help health technology developers check early whether a product may fall within the scope of the HTA Regulation. The update follows the EMA's revised pre-authorisation guidance.

[More information](#)

DG SANTE and EMA sign a Working Arrangement with New Zealand

DG SANTE and the European Medicines Agency have signed a Working Arrangement with the New Zealand Ministry of Health, which includes Medsafe. It aims to strengthen cooperation and the exchange of information on the quality, safety and efficacy of medicinal products. It also covers mutual learning and the sharing of best practice in regulatory science. The arrangement runs from 6 July 2026.

[More information](#)

Healthcare: the EU needs to tackle worker shortages to avoid a crisis

The European Parliament has backed calls for an EU-wide strategy to tackle worsening shortages of healthcare professionals. The report aims to increase the EU health workforce by at least one million professionals over the next seven years. It calls for better recruitment and retention, working conditions and mental-health support, action against "medical deserts", easier professional mobility and more training.

[More information](#)

Commission launches EU Screening Week with new recommendations on cardiovascular health checks

Ahead of World Heart Day, the European Commission has proposed a Council Recommendation on cardiovascular health checks to improve early detection and reduce premature deaths from cardiovascular diseases, the EU's number one killer (1.7 million deaths a year). Around 80% of cases can be prevented by tackling risk factors such as high blood pressure, cholesterol, high blood sugar, and obesity.

[More information](#)



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