



## SIMPATIE

### Safety Improvement for Patients in Europe

The SIMPATIE project is a European funded project which objective is improving the safety of patients throughout all European countries. More specifically its aim is to use a European wide network of organizations, experts, professionals, and other stakeholders to establish within two years a common European set of vocabulary, indicators, internal and external instruments for the improvement of safety in healthcare.

#### Background

The SIMPATIE-project is co-financed by the European Commission in 2004 under the 'Public Health Programme 2003-2008'. The SIMPATIE-project started the 15th of February 2005 with a duration of two years.

Partners in the project are:

- CBO - Dutch Institute for Quality in Healthcare
- CPME - Standing Committee of European Doctors
- CoE - Council of Europe
- ESQH - European Society for Quality in Healthcare
- HAS – Haute Autorité de Santé
- HOPE - European Hospital and Healthcare Federation
- AvMA - Action against Medical Accidents
- LMCA – The Long Term Medical Conditions Alliance

#### Summary of the SIMPATIE-project

Patient Safety is now internationally recognised as a health quality issue. There is good evidence of the level of harm to citizens and the cost to both healthcare providers and to society of what amounts to preventable harm in delivering healthcare. The cost is such, it can be argued, that eventually it will be recognised as an issue for public health within the Health Threats priority area.

The SIMPATIE project aims to facilitate free movement of people and services by developing EU-wide commonality and transparency in methodology on patient safety in healthcare institutions. It is multidisciplinary and includes input from patient representatives.

A mapping exercise is being carried out across a minimum of 20 member and accession states determining the status of activity and strategic planning on patient safety. A data base with standardised format was





developed which is sustainable i.e. has the potential to be updated regularly and cheaply. Data for benchmarking good practice is going to be an additional output.

In parallel a working group of experts developed a common vocabulary, outcome indicators and internal and external instruments for improvement in patient safety, based on a framework of the Council of Europe, and assisted in the process by current activities of WHO and OECD.

The results of the first two working streams are being presented and discussed with invited experts at the “[Building a Strategy for Patient Safety in Europe](#)” conference in September 2006. During this conference a consensus approach to health strategy in patient safety shall be developed using the expertise of the invited speakers and participants; representatives from European and national authorities, academia, health professionals and patient organisations.

The final work stream concentrates on dissemination using established professional, institutional and patient networks.

### Specific objectives

- 1- To establish systematic knowledge repository on patient safety related to legislation, regulation and actions in EU states.
- 2- The Council of Europe recommendation on Prevention of Adverse Events is translated into a practical and usable tool for the work floor.
- 3- A vocabulary (set of definitions) and a set of system and organization indicators / outcome measures related to patient safety is formulated.
- 4- Recommendations for external evaluation of health services, including selected instruments that can be used for improvement, are defined with regard to patient safety.
- 5- Recommendations for internal evaluation of health services, including a set of instruments that can be used for improvement, are defined with regard to patient safety.
- 6- **Expert consensus on recommendations and instruments, described in above mentioned objectives.**
- 7- Results are disseminated to the wider public and involved parties.