EHMA 2025

Taking action to improve health for all

Council of Europe's Guidelines to Harmonize the Medication Review Process in Europe

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Council of Europe

Founded in 1949

The oldest pan-European organisation

46 member countries > 700 million Europeans

Headquarters in Strasbourg (France)

Core values:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Human rights ⟹ equal access to high quality medicines and healthcare

European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines and HealthCare (EDQM)

- ✓A Council of Europe's Directorate
- ✓Activities based on the Convention on the Elaboration of a European Pharmacopoeia (1964)
- ✓Leader in **protecting public health by enabling** the development, supporting the implementation and monitoring the application of **quality standards for safe medicines and their safe use**
- ✓Mission: contribute to the **basic human right of access to good quality medicines and healthcare** and to promote and protect human and animal health

Committee of Experts on Quality and Safety Standards for Pharmaceutical Practices and Pharmaceutical Care (CD-P-PH/PC)

- ✓Mission: standard setting in the domain of safe and appropriate use of medicines in hospital and community pharmacy settings

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5th June, 2025

EDQM Resolution on Pharmaceutical Care

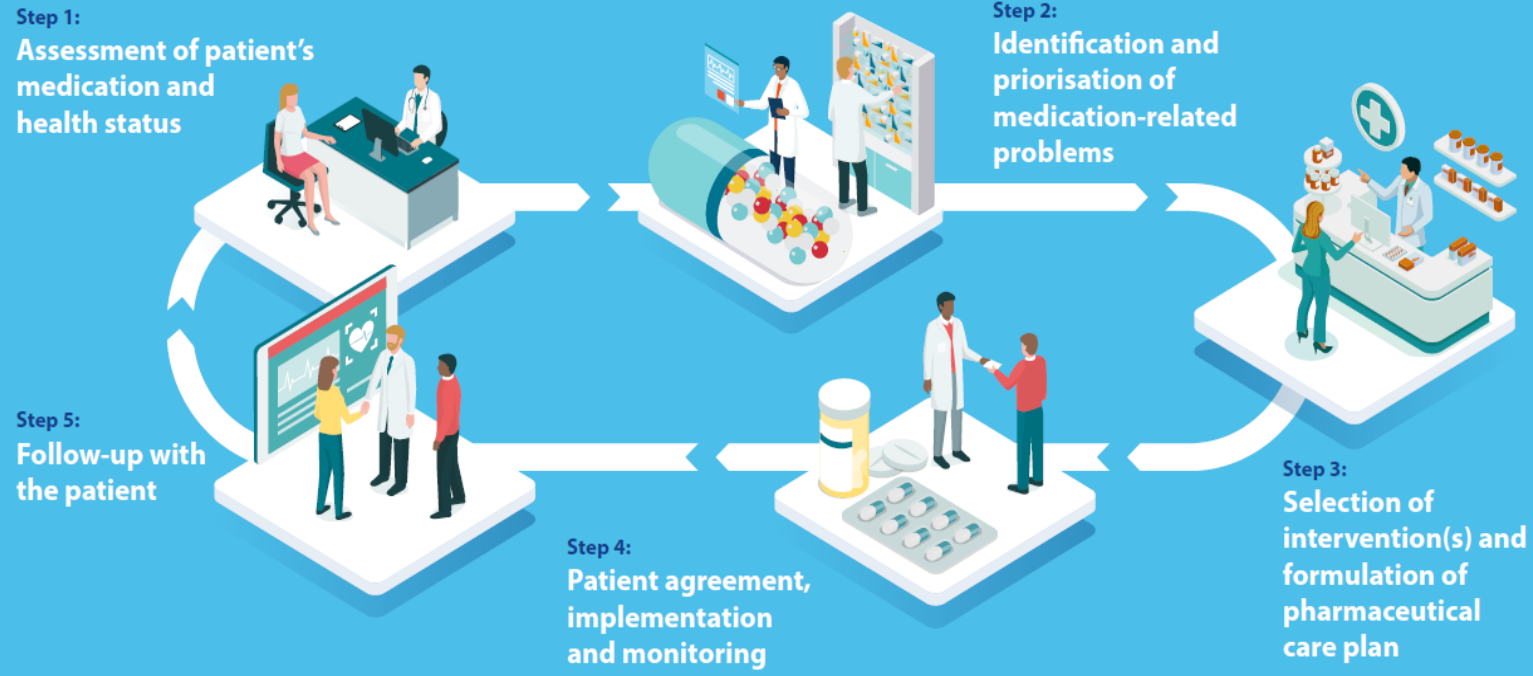
COUNCIL OF EUROPE RESOLUTION CM/RES(2020)3 ON IMPLEMENTATION OF PHARMACEUTICAL CARE FOR THE BENEFIT OF PATIENTS AND HEALTH SERVICES

THE RESOLUTION CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING SEVEN SECTIONS:

1. Definition of pharmaceutical care
2. Patient care and the pharmaceutical care process
3. Pharmaceutical care and related pharmacy services
4. Services provided in the hospital setting
5. Services specific to public health and population health
6. Implementation of pharmaceutical care within the health system
7. Promotion of pharmaceutical care

RESOLUTION CM/RES(2020)3
ON IMPLEMENTATION OF PHARMACEUTICAL CARE FOR THE BENEFIT OF PATIENTS AND HEALTH SERVICES

PHARMACEUTICAL CARE PROCESS



★ Medication Review (MR) is an essential part of Pharmaceutical Care – steps 1 – 3.

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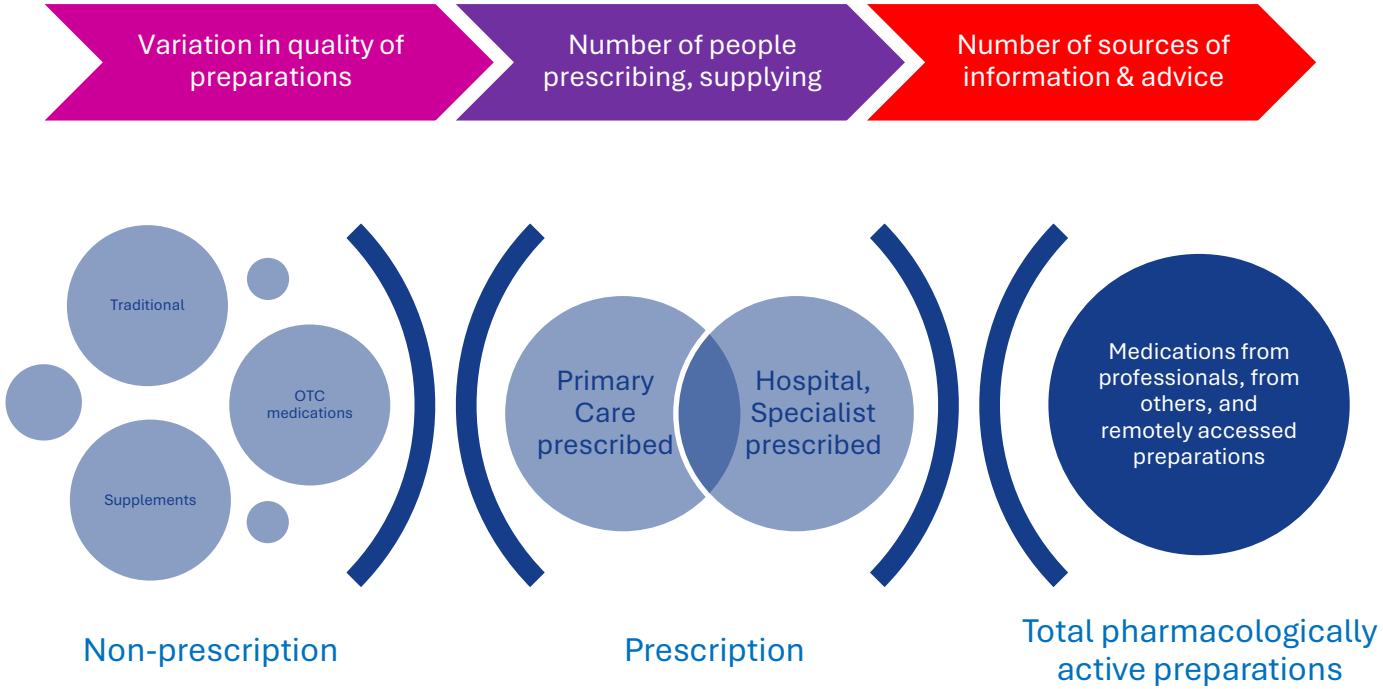
Complexity of medication use contributes to risk and harm



Medication Review

(and Pharmaceutical Care)

can address these problems

- ★ MR detects and addresses problems with medicines not often identified through routine prescription review.
- ★ Emphasis on optimising medicine use leads to more appropriate medicines being used.
- ★ MR promotes consideration of deprescribing potentially inappropriate medicines.

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Medication Review Guideline

Medication Review Process

- ✓ Structured, standardised procedure to ensure consistency in the provision of quality patient care
- ✓ Identification of patients who may benefit, collection of all the relevant information, medication reconciliation, evaluation to determine and prioritise the problems requiring intervention
- ✓ Recommendations formulated into a pharmaceutical care plan prepared with the patient
- ✓ Relevant information shared with the patient and communicated to other healthcare professionals
- ✓ Implementation and follow-up and the patient's MR records updated

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MR Guideline's Intentions

To support…

- ★ National Competent Authorities and policy makers in establishing and adapting MR as an intervention in their healthcare systems;
- ★ Countries and Health Services where the application and performance of MR are considered suboptimal;
- ★ Pharmacists and Healthcare Professionals involved with medicines to ensure that MR is carried out in a consistent and systematic manner;
- ★ Health Authorities to drive medicine optimisation, to improve patient safety and patient health outcomes, and to support efficient medicine management.

Several MR types for different purposes and settings

MR Type	Purpose	Need	Potential problem	Data required	Complexity
1	Screening	Not urgent	Understanding, managing medicines, reassurance	Patient's medication record	Simple
2a	Patient centred	Moderate	Adherence, experiences, concerns	Patient, medication history	Intermediate
2b	Detailed History review	Moderate	Detailed screen for problems	Medication history, laboratory and clinical test results	Intermediate
3	Wholistic	Potentially urgent	Potentially serious problems, non-adherence – therapeutic failure, adverse effects	Patient, medication record, Medical records	Advanced, Complex

MR and patient engagement

- MR is a key opportunity to listen to the patient's concerns and empower them to take an active role in the management of their condition(s) which leads to…

Improved

- patient understanding of their medicines and how to use them
- shared understanding between the patient, prescriber and pharmacist about the patient's medicines and their role in the patient's treatment
- adherence to medicine use
- current and future management of the patient's condition(s)
- health outcomes associated with optimal medicine use

Reduction in

- unnecessary and unused medicines
- adverse effects related to the use of medicines
- unplanned healthcare utilisation

MR and Healthcare Professionals

- Medicines are used everywhere and responsibility for their appropriate use is shared by everyone
- Pharmacists act as the custodians, providers, experts and advocates for medicines in Society
- Quality use of medicines depends upon co-operation and collaboration between healthcare professionals
- Prescriptions are requests to provide, not orders
- Prescribers and pharmacists are able to conduct simple MR, but will need training for more advanced MR
- Other healthcare professionals need training to conduct MR
- MR is an opportunity to promote and consolidate co-operation and collaboration among healthcare professionals

Medication Review – key points

- Medication Review
  - ✓ Can be conducted in all healthcare service settings
  - ✓ Type of MR used must be appropriate for the patient's circumstances and clinical need
- Health Service context
  - ✓ MR is an important tool to optimise medicine use and should be used to its full extent to improve patient care and patient safety.
  - ✓ MR should be available as a health service-wide programme with the aim of improving public health.
  - ✓ MR should be integrated into the care pathway for the patient population.
  - ✓ The health service together with the stakeholders should provide the vision, leadership and resources to ensure that MR is developed and implemented effectively and efficiently.
- Implementation must be planned
  - ✓ Identify area of need and tailoring the MR to address it
  - ✓ Elicit the facilitators and barriers and plan for them
  - ✓ Implementation team and continued support

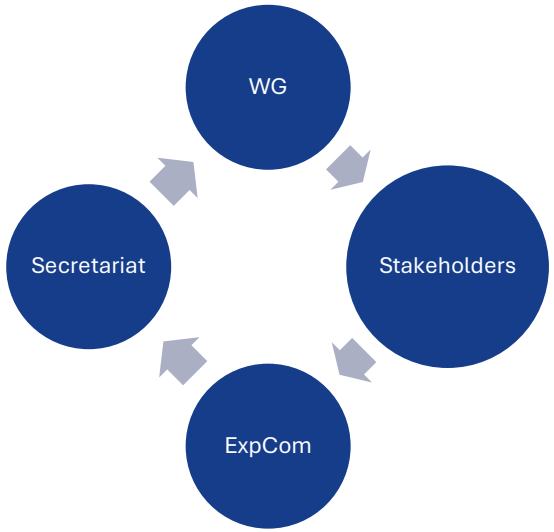
Guideline summary

Guideline Content

- Medication Review and Medicine use
- Medication Review
- Medication Review Process
- Data collection, protection and storage
- Education and storage
- Health Service Context
- Examples of MR Programmes

Working Process

- Working Group discussion and drafting
- Stakeholder engagement and review of draft
- Expert Committee Review



Working Group

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More information

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Thank you - Go Raibh maith agaibh.

THANK YOU

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