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European Society of Oncology Pharmacy (ESOP) – Letter of conduct

Who are we?

The European Society of Oncology Pharmacy was founded in 2000 in Prague. We are a membership-based society with 3200 members from 48 countries. We are based in Europe, acting as an umbrella organisation for national European oncology pharmacy societies, but we also give home and partnership to all oncology pharmacy societies in the world who are willing to act under the same aim, vision and goals.

Mission

Our mission is to support optimal treatment for cancer patients.

Aim and objectives

ESOP aims to develop and promote clinical and oncology pharmacy practice through

- i) education and training of oncology pharmacists as well as other healthcare professionals
- ii) safe handling and administration of drugs
- iii) implementation of standardised quality management for oncology pharmacy throughout its member states
- iv) performing research and encouraging innovation in oncology pharmacy
- v) enhancing pharmaceutical patient care.

Furthermore, ESOP is dedicated to make information on knowledge and achievements in cancer treatment and activities available to the public. ESOP spreads information about oncology pharmacy by publications, professional activities as well as educational lectures and seminars.

Activities

- *Quality Standards*

The fourth edition of *Quality Standards for the Oncology Pharmacy Service* (QuapoS) – translated into 27 languages – presents changes with respect to the position of our service. They are used for standardisation of national principles and to speak with one voice in Europe. The beneficiary of these efforts will always be the patient. Quapos 5 is currently available in German and English.

- *Masterclass*

The ESOP Master Classes in oncology pharmacy practice are events providing continuing education in oncology for hospital pharmacists, whose duties require expertise on cytotoxic drug preparation, handling and administration (including risk management). There is a basic and an intermediate masterclass, with lectures on all aspects of oncology pharmacy, and an advanced master class focused on improving clinical knowledge for oncology pharmacists, so they can give patients the best possible care and support.

- *Safe handling*

ESOP recommends labelling of cytotoxics with the yellow hand: a logo indicating the danger with a warning that can be easily understood.

- *Publication*

The European Journal of Oncology Pharmacy (EJOP) is a peer-reviewed pharmaceutical journal in the field of cancer treatment. This Scientific Journal focuses on all the aspects of pharmacy oriented to cancer. It is the official organ of the European Society of Oncology Pharmacy.

- *Conference*

ESOP organizes a biannual European Conference (ECOP) to promote the highest standards of pharmaceutical care in the management and support of patients with tumors. The latest advances in research, patient management and practice are showcased in keynote lectures, scientific symposia and poster sessions in two distinct tracks, clinical and practical.

- *Masha project*

Evaluation of environmental contamination with cytotoxic drugs in the hospital is a fundamental requirement to ensure the safety of all healthcare professionals. Safe handling procedures should be closely monitored in all areas where antineoplastic drugs are delivered, stored, prepared, administered and disposed of. ESOP has initiated an independent, multi-centre, pan-European research platform called Masha to measure the current state of cytotoxic contamination in the workplace.

- *Epic project*

To improve the quality of oncology patient counselling by pharmacists, ESOP has started the EPIC project. In this project a training program for oncology pharmacists about cancer care in relation to oral anticancer drugs is developed, with the goal to optimise patients understanding of their pharmacotherapy and, consequently, enhance adherence. .