

Appendix K

Recommendation Rec(2006)7 Council of Europe, Committee of Ministers

Implementation of the patient-safety policy:

A successful implementation of the patient-safety policy requires concerted activities of all stakeholders, and in particular:

- a.* health-care staff involvement from the very beginning, starting with the development of a patient-safety strategy;
- b.* prompt feedback to all health-care professionals and patients involved in a patient-safety incident at the local level;
- c.* putting emphasis on the development of a simple, non-bureaucratic safety enhancement system;
- d.* in corporate health-care organisations, patient safety starts at the top; therefore management should offer leadership and support and implement a learning organisation, to assess the contribution of professionals;
- e.* raising citizens' awareness through information for, and involvement of, citizens in patient-safety issues;
- f.* informing the public of results achieved by patient-safety actions (transparency);
- g.* obligation for health-care units to report on the implementation of patient-safety measures;
- h.* adjusting, if necessary, existing systems of care by medical, economic, legal and political measures to improve patient safety;
- i.* continuous quantitative assessment of the patient-safety policy at national and, where available, international level. It should be reported back in due time to enable the future updating of the policies inspired by the recommendation as well as the text of the recommendation itself;
- j.* the implementation of patient-safety policies should not be conditioned or inhibited by financial considerations. The safety of medication and interventions is the essential feature of health-care provision and its cost should be included in the general budget, instead of being covered by special tariffs and reimbursement schemes. Health-care providers should receive an adequate payment through normal channels, for their quality services;
- k.* member states can decide upon financing of research projects according to their perceived needs and established priorities.