



**Royal College
of Physicians**

Setting higher medical standards

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From The Registrar
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7th April 2008

Dear Ms Närhi

Re: European Union consultation on legal proposal on information to patients

The Royal College of Physicians is grateful for the opportunity to comment on this proposed legislation. The College has considerable concerns about these proposals and feels that it is inappropriate for the EU to proceed further without wider ranging discussions. In particular, the College, whose main aim is setting high standards of practice in medicine, is very concerned that the care to patients will not be helped and may be harmed by the proposals. All patients have the right to objective and high quality information about their health and medical treatment but this information should be given to them by their personal medical practitioner or a specialist to whom they have been referred. The College is strongly in support of the spirit as well as the letter of Article 88a of Directive 2001/83/EC.

The College is also concerned that there is a real danger to patient safety if commercial companies advertise directly to patients. For example, some companies advertise CT scanning to patients as a "health check". In the United Kingdom the Committee on the Medical Aspects of Radiation Exposure (COMARE) has advised against this and it seems to the College that this proposal is heading in the same most unsatisfactory direction.

The College is grateful to the European Public Health Alliance for sharing its response to the consultation with the Royal College of Physicians. The College is happy to endorse their response as well.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Rodney Burnham
Registrar

