



Ulla Närhi
European Commission
DG Enterprise & Industry
Unit F2 "Pharmaceuticals"
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Dear Ulla Närhi

The International Alliance of Patients' Organizations welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Commission's legal proposal on information to patients and would like to add our support to the response from the European Patients Forum to this consultation. We would also like to add some comments that we believe should be essential considerations as the Commission takes this work forward.

IAPO considers that all aspects of healthcare should be truly patient-centred; this means that all aspects of health policy, systems and delivery should be designed around the patient. To achieve patient-centredness, patients must be involved in all aspects of health, not only in their own treatment, but in higher level decision making processes such as priority setting for research funding and clinical trials design.

Information is one of five principles that IAPO and our members believe healthcare should be based on to be truly patient-centred, and that information should be accurate, relevant and comprehensive to enable patients to make informed decisions about healthcare treatment and living with their condition. We support the Commission's efforts to address information provision in this proposal, however, we are concerned that this proposal focuses only on a small part of the information needs of patients. It is important that this proposal is not a substitute for the comprehensive information strategy covering broader aspects of healthcare, called for by stakeholders responding to the Report on Current Practice with Regard to Provision of Information to Patients on Medicinal Products.

Access to and provision of information is a public health issue, therefore IAPO considers that an information strategy should be led by DG SANCO, taking a patient-centred approach, examining the role of all relevant stakeholders including governments, healthcare professionals, industry and patients