

EAEP European Association of E-Pharmacies

Positioning Paper / ACCESS

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THE EAEP POSITIONING ON ACCESS

Pharmacies provide an essential service by giving patients access to medications and pharmaceutical consulting services. Online pharmacies are key to ensuring this access because they make it easy for patients to receive their medications even in special situations such as the Covid-19 pandemic or when they have difficulties reaching a traditional bricks-and-mortar pharmacy, e.g. because of health or mobility issues.

We Empower People to Effectively Self-medicate

- OTC medicines play a vital role in ensuring public health when provided with professional pharmaceutical advice.
- OTC medicines are easily accessible, relatively inexpensive and empower patients to manage symptoms of common ailments such as headaches or colds.
- E-pharmacies enable patients to safely and conveniently access OTC medicines from their home or mobile.
- OTC medicines and self-medication help reduce pressure on overburdened healthcare systems.

We Provide Patients with Prescription / Rx Medications

- Only pharmacies are allowed to dispense prescription medications.
- Online pharmacies help to ensure continuous availability and affordability for all patients.

We Give Expert Professional Advice and Care

- Professionally trained pharmacy staff are best placed to provide qualified and personalised advice on the most appropriate use of medicines, the monitoring of treatment plans and patient compliance.
- Pharmacies are in a unique position to have detailed knowledge about a patient's past and future medical record, especially e-pharmacies with their comprehensive patient records and databases.

We Minimise the Risk of Medication Shortages

- Pharmacies mitigate the impact of shortages of medicines by providing generic substitutes as well as by procuring and importing medicines from alternative authorised sources.
- This is particularly true for e-pharmacies who generally have greater amount and a broader amount of inventory than traditional pharmacies.