1. THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

With more patients taking medication than ever before, encouraging patients to get the most out of their medication is essential to avoid unnecessary ill health as well as reduce waste and unnecessary cost. Since the decision about whether to take medication or not ultimately lies with the patient it is crucial that health professionals and patients engage in a partnership approach to consultations to manage and support adherence to medication. This needs to be underpinned by appropriate education and development for health professionals. This document sets out an educational framework for appropriate education and development of health professionals in Europe on managing and supporting medication adherence with patients.

"Managing and supporting medication adherence needs to be underpinned by appropriate education and development for health professionals"

The educational framework presented is principally aimed at the professions of medication, pharmacy and nursing in Europe, but also applies to any health professional engaging in discussions with patients about their medications. The framework comprises several parts: a competency framework describing the skills, knowledge, attributes and behaviours of healthcare professionals that can support patients with medication; a curriculum for educational organisations to guide education and training for healthcare professionals in their work with patients and their medication; and a diagnostic tool that can be used both by healthcare professionals to reflect on their practice against specific criteria and by educational organisations to assess their curricula against the competencies that healthcare professionals need to support patients with medication and medication taking. The educational framework ends with a brief reading list for managing and supporting medication adherence. This document ends with a description of the development and consultation process that informed the educational framework.

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The framework can be used to:

- Help ensure that individuals and teams who engage with patients in managing and supporting adherence to medication possess all the relevant expertise

- Help individuals, and their employers / managers, identify gaps in knowledge and skills and therefore identify ongoing training and development needs

- Inform the commissioning, development, provision and accreditation of appropriate education and training programmes at all levels

- Support individual continuing education and professional development

- Support professionals / managers locally by informing the wider clinical governance framework

- Support managers locally by providing a framework to help recruitment and selection procedures and appraisal systems.

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