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EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS**

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Bratislava Declaration on e-Medicine

The UEMS Council notes that e-Medicine has entered the everyday practice of medical informatics, and the healthcare of patients in the European Union and many other countries throughout the World.

The UEMS recognises that e-Medicine has the potential for significant improvements in the quality of patient care, and for the manner in which doctors are able to provide that care. The UEMS believes that these quality issues must have priority over the emphasis on potential cost-efficiencies that have been advocated by other stakeholders.

The UEMS Council believes that the electronic creation, recording, transfer and storage of medical data is useful and inevitable, and will support further progress in the availability of medical and public information, will contribute to higher standards in medical qualification and specialisation, and the promotion of improvements in the well-being and healthcare of persons.

However, the UEMS Council is concerned that the misuse of e-Medicine could damage persons, communities and countries through recognised risks to the security of data, confidentiality, medical ethics, and the law. The principles of a patient's privacy and confidentiality must be respected, and only patients have the right voluntarily to decide to have their data held in storage.

Acting on these concerns regarding the electronic creation, recording, transfer and storage of medical information in the European Union, the UEMS Council commits itself to making efforts, using UEMS registration and validation procedures, to implement, promote, develop and control:

- respect for the security and privacy of persons, and the rights and laws governing these
- respect for medical ethical principles,
- the validity of electronic health information, and
- the quality of electronic medical education and training.

Adopted by the UEMS Council on 13th October 2007 at its meeting in Bratislava.