

Press release

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The Association of UK University Hospitals supports GMC call for common prescription form

The Association of UK University Hospitals (AUKUH) fully supports the General Medical Council's call for a standardised prescription chart to reduce the number of potential prescribing errors in UK hospitals.

AUKUH was one of the key contributors to the Safe Prescribing Working Group, led by the Medical Schools Council, which called for the introduction of a common prescription form. It is therefore pleased to support the GMC's call for such a form.

Despite stressful and busy working environments, 91% prescriptions were accurate and almost all prescribing errors were intercepted and corrected before being given to patients. Junior doctors are highly knowledgeable and are fully competent in all the outcomes in *Tomorrow's Doctors* when they begin their first day as a junior doctor. University Hospitals need to help support them in their role and a common form will help eradicate error when they move around during their placements.

Professor Stephen Powis, Chair of the AUKUH Medical Directors Group, said 'patient safety is a paramount concern for all who work in the NHS. Standardised prescription forms will reduce the risk that doctors make mistakes when they move between hospitals'.

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Notes to Editors:

1. The AUKUH is the key leadership body across the UK promoting the unique interests of University hospitals. Its role is to represent the unique tripartite - service, teaching and research - interests of UK University Hospital Trusts in partnership with other national bodies. For further information about the work of AUKUH please see: www.aukuh.org.uk
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3. The outcomes from the Safe Prescribing Working Group can be accessed from the Medical Schools Council website: <http://www.medschools.ac.uk/Publications/Pages/Safe-Prescribing-Working-Group-Outcomes.aspx>
4. For more information please contact Amy Stringer, Communications Officer on +44(0)20 7419 5427, email: amy.stringer@aukuh.org.uk, web: www.aukuh.org.uk