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LMHI-Statement on Homeopathic Pharmacy

LMHI (Liga Medicorum Homoeopathica Internationalis) was founded in 1925 in Rotterdam as an incorporated body of worldwide homeopathic medical professionals. The number of countries being members 65 indicates the importance of homeopathy for the national health care systems all over the world. The purposes of the LMHI are the following: both in order to secure a high standard of practice in homeopathy and homeopathic medicines.

- The development and availability of quality homeopathy worldwide;
- The interconnection of homeopaths with medical, veterinary, dental or pharmaceutical diplomas as well as societies and persons interested in homeopathy;

Many countries grant the freedom of selecting a preferred therapeutic method to their citizens. The World Health Organisation also urges its member states to recognise the rights of people, and ensure holistic approaches and the integration of complementary medicine like homeopathy into public healthcare models.[1] Consequently it goes without saying that patients must have access to homeopathic medicines prescribed by their homeopathic medical practitioners.

The preparation and production of the necessary homeopathic medicines is usually under the guidelines set by national homeopathic pharmacopeias.

[1] WHA resolution WHA69.24, World Health Assembly 2016.

Six exclusively homeopathic pharmacopeias from all the world, have been approved by national health care systems of the following countries:

- Brazil – *Farmacopeia Homeopática Brasileira*,
- Germany – *Homöopathisches Arzneibuch (HAB),*
- Great Britain – *British Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia (B.Hom.P.),*
- India – *Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia of India (H.P.I.),*
- Mexico – *Farmacopea Homeopática de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos*,
- United States of America – *Homeopathic Pharmacopoea of the United States (HPUS).*

The two following pharmacopeias have an exceptional position:

- Europe – *European Pharmacopeia (Ph. Eur.),*
- France – *Pharmacopée française.*

The European Pharmacopeia describes also homeopathic medicine preparation and has monographs for single homeopathic medicines including homeopathic manufacturing methods and homeopathic raw materials and stock.[2] This is also valid for the Pharmacopée française.

The European Pharmacopeia (Ph. Eur.), which has been approved by all European Union members, is "Europe's legal and scientific benchmark for pharmacopoeial standards which contribute to delivering high quality medicines in Europe and beyond". The latter is applicable in 38 European countries and used in over 100 countries worldwide.[3]

Generally the pharmacopeias regulate the production of the homeopathic medicine. Therefore pharmacists or production companies have to follow the guidelines outlined in the pharmacopeia, the "law-book" for pharmacists.

In most countries national health legislation urges the pharmacists to distribute medicines[4] and this also includes homeopathic medicines, which by the law of many countries are also considered as "medicines".[5] Consequently it is not a matter of the pharmacist´s decision whether he likes to distribute homeopathic medicines or not: he is obliged to do it.

The LMHI endorses the patient´s need for officially registered pharmacists to be able to prepare and distribute the prescribed homeopathic medicine.

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[2] https://www.edqm.eu/sites/default/files/list_of_groups_of_experts_and_working_parties.pdf (Access: 31.10.2018).
[3] https://www.edqm.eu/en/european-pharmacopoeia-ph-eur-9th-edition (Access: 31.10.2018).
[4] § 1 Bundesapothekerordnung (BApo) and §§ 8, 17 Abs. 4 Apothekenbetriebsordnung (ApBetrO).
[5] http://www.farmacista33.it/omeopatia-farmacisti-un-dovere-essere-preparati-entrera-nel-nuovo-codice-deontologico/politica-e-sanita/news--45822.html (Access: 5.11.2018).