



CPME/AD/Brd/170307/025/EN

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At its Board meeting in Warsaw on 17 March 2007, the CPME adopted the following resolution: **Access to care and treatment for asylum seekers – ethical issues** (referring to CPME 2007/025 Final EN/FR)

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### **Access to care and treatment for asylum seekers – ethical issues**

Ethically it is difficult to see the justification for restricting the rights of asylum seekers to standards and levels of health care not equivalent to those ordinarily resident in the host country. Without such provision, the health of asylum seekers is likely to deteriorate further. In addition to these ethical considerations, the public health effects of a failure to provide necessary treatment could be significant. For ethical and practical public health reasons, the CPME should therefore lobby the European Union to ensure that asylum seekers are entitled to a level of health care equivalent to other citizens. This is even more pressing given the fact that asylum seekers have a legitimate right to be in their host countries, at least until their claim for asylum is heard. In case of a negative decision against an asylum seeker's claim, arrangements must be put in place to safeguard access to healthcare.

National medical associations who are members of the CPME should work to:

- Ensure health professionals are familiar with asylum seekers' rights of access to necessary health care
- Provide guidance on best practice
- Lobby domestic Government to recognise the rights of asylum seekers to primary and secondary health care on a par with ordinary citizens
- Speak out where national health policies have a negative impact on asylum seekers