WMA Role and need for global action on the Social Determinants of health (SDoH)

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SDoH dynamics

- DOCTORS
  - Universal Medical Ethical
  - Rules
- SDoH
- NMAs
WMA Statement on Social Determinants of Health

Adopted by the 62nd WMA General Assembly, Montevideo, Uruguay, October 2011

http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/s2/
Doctors should be well informed participants in this debate. There is much that can happen within the practice of medicine that can contribute directly and through working with other sectors. The medical profession can be advocates for action on those social conditions that have important effects on health.
In order to help addressing the SDoH, Doctors should respect these ethical principals:

✓ Independence:
  * autonomy  * impartiality

✓ Ensure correct balance:
  * individual primacy  * social primacy

✓ Information to patient
  * engaged and knowledgeable patient
In order to help addressing the SDoH, Doctors should respect these ethical principals:

- Professional code of conduct ensures:
  - *Confidentiality*
  - *Privacy*
- Equity in health
- Quality: continuous learning & improvement
- Conflicts of interest: avoid and declare if occur
WMA Policy on SDoH

The WMA could add significant value to the global efforts to address these social determinants by helping doctors, other health professionals and National Medical Associations understand what the emerging evidence shows and what works, in different circumstances. It could help doctors to lobby more effectively within their countries and across international borders, and ensure that medical knowledge and skills are shared.
The WMA should gather examples of good practice from its members and promote further work in this area.

In Britain for example, the national government has issued a public health white paper that has at its heart reduction of health inequalities through action on the social determinants of health; several local areas have drawn up plans of action; there are good examples of general practice that work across sectors improve the quality of people's lives and hence reduce health inequalities.
WMA Call for Global Action

Xavier DEAU a Retweeté

World Medical Assoc @medwma · 12 nov.

The H2O Melbourne Summit will support the notion that health is the greatest social capital a nation can have bit.ly/1xwZnyU
WMA Call for Global Action
WMA Call for Global Action

H20 Health Summit Memorandum SDoH

“The SDoH, Health inequality among people between and within countries is significant and constitutes an urgent issue of social justice. It is clear that these health inequalities are the result of differences in living conditions; the environment in which a person is born, grows, lives, works, ages, and dies.

The International community including the health sector, must redouble our efforts to address these and reach a more fair and just society.”
Why a Global Action?

H20 Health Summit:
This International Health Summit started 2 days before the G20 Leaders’ meeting.
To show world leaders that good health should be regarded as:
• high priority
• wise and valuable economic investment.

➢ A plea for Equality and Ethics in health
H20 Health Summit: WMA Press release 17.11.14

Dr. Haikerwal: ‘We will now hold world leaders to their commitment to strengthen health systems and condemn them if they fail to follow through on their statement. It is time world leaders realised that the health sector employs significant numbers of people and that a productive society depends on a healthy, engaged and confident workforce.

‘For too long these world summits have failed to recognise that:

“health is the greatest social capital a nation can have”
Thank you for your attention!

For more information, please visit www.wma.net