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# Community Care Sector Committee White Paper

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The MedTech Europe Community Care Sector Committee aims at enabling the industry to understand the healthcare environment around community care, and to collaborate with suitable stakeholders in a structured and long-term way to create understanding, share best-practice and bring solutions.

The current health-care systems are conservative and static, and there is a need to challenge the status quo to meet the needs and aspirations of citizen. Factual arguments, the sharing of best-practice from not only within the Eurozone but from around the world with innovative solutions will be required to develop alternative routes into the future. For companies in the community care sector, a common voice in Europe will highlight the visibility and create awareness of the issues around community care to different stakeholders, including political and policy decision makers. With the mechanisms of healthcare systems being different within the countries, a common platform to approach this topic is essential.

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## What is Community Care

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There is no standard definition for Community Care as this sector of healthcare can vary from country to country. However, Community Care is generally seen as the treatment outside of an acute care setting, such as a hospital. Community Care usually includes:

- Primary care (e.g. general practitioner's services or office based specialist's services)
- Out-patient clinics (e.g. one-day clinics)
- Homecare (within an individual's own home, 'hospital in the home')
- Institutionalised homecare (e.g. nursing, long-term care & palliative care homes, homes for the elderly, hospices)
- Rehabilitation/recovery centres (e.g. 'step-down' centres)
- Ambulatory care or out-patients facilities (e.g. chemotherapy, total parenteral nutrition, dialysis)

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## Why do we need group

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Now more than ever, community care should be reshaped to meet the increasing demands on the healthcare system. Health needs are changing and so should health services. New multidisciplinary treatments and better clinical practice, together with new drugs and technologies are changing the way care is delivered. Patients' needs are changing too, as a result of demographic trends and lifestyle choices. On the financial side, years of large annual increases in funding are history – while increased patient expectations cannot simple be deactivated and on contrary are increasing.

The solution is to do more with less, finding ways to reduce the cost of healthcare without compromising on the quality of care. There is already growing practice that is showing the way forward – through earlier diagnosis and prevention, through a replacement of unnecessary hospital admissions and treatment in the community.

Therefore we need this Sector Committee, to visualize the common challenges and leverage opportunities in the high street, community and at home. But also to take an active part in the creation of new health policies and in the change management programmes on European and national levels.

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## Who are our stakeholders?

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- Patient Associations / EU Citizen
- Policymakers / Governmental Institutions (e.g. European Parliament, European Commission, Member State Governments and Health Agencies)
- Politicians (e.g. MEPs, Commissionaires, Health Ministers)
- Healthcare Professionals / Interest groups / Think Tanks
- Healthcare Managers / Providers
- Payers / Insurers / Procurers