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UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS OMNIPRATICIENS

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Document	UEMO 2007/026
Object	EANA – Definition Ambulatory Medical Care
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Date of transmission	18 March, 2007

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Definition

Ambulatory medical care

Ambulatory medical care is concerned with medical services for the population and for patients the health status of which does not require in-patient treatment so that they can remain in their habitual place of residence.

Ambulatory care offers the following benefits :

- A non-discriminatory medicine close to people's home
- A high-quality, efficient and economical medicine
- Direct access for the population
- Continuity of care for people of all ages
- Ongoing care for individual patients in all spheres of life
- Assurance of doctor-patient relationship based on confidence and confidentiality
- The freedom of patients to receive care from the doctor of their choice

Ambulatory medical care is comprised of the services that meet the needs of every citizen :

- Health promotion and education
- Prevention in all its different forms

- Diagnostics and therapy of physical and psychic illnesses in coordination with the health care system and the other health professions (day clinics, institutions, outpatient clinics, managed care etc.)
- Psychosocial care
- Rehabilitation
- Emergency and on-call services

This is assured by :

- General practitioners and specialists in free practice
- Quick and uncomplicated access of the population and of patients to surgeries or comparable health care structures
- Coordination with all structures of the health care system in a country or a region
- Consultations either in the doctor's surgery or home visits and home nursing care