

TRANSLATION

CGCOM Statement on the COVID-19 pandemic

The Spanish General Medical Council (CGCOM) will appear as private prosecution in those cases of infection derived from the use of defective face masks

- Requests the medical profession be considered a profession with a high risk of exposure.
- Requires that SARS-CoV-2 infection and its sequelae be recognized as an occupational accident.
- Will acknowledge the deceased colleagues and all health professionals in a tribute ceremony in *Plaza de las Cortes*, when the exceptional situation returns to normal.
- Creates a COVID-19 Observatory to analyse the impact of SARS-CoV-2 disease and its consequences on the medical profession and for future actions to be taken in relation to it.
- Requires making tests right away to all health professionals for the necessary safety of patients and professionals, and as an essential working requirement.
- Has set up a Working Group to prepare a technical proposal for a standardization plan of healthcare activity and reconstruction of the NHS.
- Requires the Government and the Health Authorities to have an explanation that generates trust and a common project to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Asks the Government for its active participation in the management of this public health crisis.

After the weekly meeting held on April 17, 2020 between the Presidents of the Autonomous Councils of Medical Colleges and the CGCOM Board, we would like to express:

- Our utmost outrage at what happened with the **masks** in green packaging sent by the Ministry of Health and withdrawn after being distributed to the Autonomous Communities and the health professionals. These are FFP2 masks from the company Garry Galaxy, supplier to the Ministry of Health and included in the list of manufacturers of healthcare equipment

authorized by China, which do not meet any classification indicated in the standard of the Spanish Association for Standardization, and whose alert was communicated after the use of them by professionals. This intolerable fact not only generates more mistrust in the Government's action, but also adds to the situation of defencelessness to which health professionals are subjected. Not only do we request an explanation from the responsible authorities, but that all pertinent measures are adopted without delay for the staff exposed to a high risk of infection, as well as assuming responsibilities. **CGCOM will appear as a private accusation in those cases of infection derived from this situation. #NiUnDíaMás** without the necessary protection material that guarantees a safe and quality care at all levels. **#NiUnDíaMás** without recognizing the high degree of exposure to which health staff has been and still is exposed lacking the required protective measures.

- One more week, we have to regret the high number of infected health professionals, around 30,000 according to official figures, as well as the number of deceased colleagues, which today is 34. It is mandatory to require that all cases under the label of sick leave (IT) due to SARS-CoV-2 infection are considered an **occupational accident** without any legal maze and without any consideration impeding this recognition. We believe it is only fair and necessary that the medical profession in particular, and the health professions in general be considered, for all intents and purposes, as **professions at high risk of exposure**.
- We would like to pay a heartfelt **tribute** to our deceased colleagues, who, without doubting about their duty, offered their future and that of their families for their profession and for others. We cannot allow they will end up being an insubstantial number. They will always be in our memory, and for them and for all we will pay attention to the evaluations and responsibilities derived from the management of the COVID-19 pandemic. From CGCOM we are going to urge that this memory lasts, and we are going to propose a permanent memorial to be placed for all health professionals fallen practising their profession in the *Plaza de las Cortes* in Madrid, seat of the sovereignty of all Spaniards. Likewise, the Medical Colleges will launch a **COVID-19 Observatory** to evaluate the impact of the infection on professionals and as a platform for future actions related to this pandemic (legal, professional and social protection).
- We cannot allow **#NiUnDíaMas** that health professionals keep going to their healthcare centres without having been tested to know if they are infected or not. We reiterate in our petition that makes evident the deficiencies in the management of this pandemic resulting in a very high rate of contagion among health personnel and many derived risks, not only at individual but at social and professional level. It is crucial, especially in this phase of fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, to test all staff to know its serological situation. This knowledge may be used for the subsequent planning of health care to follow.

- We are entering a phase where we will all have to draw what is being called the “**de-escalation**” plan. We found out from the health media that the Ministry of Health had set up an advisory group on this matter where the Autonomous Communities are represented. CGCOM has also created a working group whose objective is to prepare a document with arguments for the society. We agree on the necessary reorganization of our National Health System considering the premises of maximum protection for professionals, respect of social distancing, separate care circuits, and obligatory knowledge of the serological situation of the general population and, especially, of health workers. We must keep saving lives, but it is also essential to think about the thousands and thousands of citizens who are pending follow-up, diagnostic tests and therapeutic assistance.
- It is urgent to have the necessary information from the health authorities, which includes a critical analysis of the situation, an approach horizon and a project of a present and future healthcare model capable of learning from the lessons that this pandemic is giving us and that engender confidence among professionals and society.
- We are facing a difficult challenge as society and healthcare system. A great political and social agreement is necessary to guarantee a quality healthcare that reinforces our universal and supportive healthcare model. This agreement must defend one of our main pillars of the welfare state, as well as it is binding and fair that it defends our health professionals. A great deal that must recognize commitment, dedication and competence. A great agreement of stability and remunerative and professional recognition.
- Now more than ever it is essential that the General Medical Council is considered for the reconstruction. **#NiUnDíaMás**

Madrid, 19 April 2020