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Object	Endorsement of the Spanish Medical General Council (CGCOM) Statement on the COVID-19 pandemic
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Endorsement of the Spanish Medical General Council (CGCOM) Statement on the COVID-19 pandemic

Dear colleagues,

Although the Covid-19 pandemic has a high potential to affect everyone, the risk is disproportionately higher for some areas of healthcare. The lack of standard personal protection equipment has increased health risks in most practices. Most health professionals have found it imperative to help patients regardless of whether protection is insufficient.

The issue of responsibility for insufficient deliveries, especially personal protective equipment, goes far beyond health, being more related to the involvement in a globalized economy and health care systems and payments. Thus, the question of responsibility requires an urgent political answer.

UEMO fully support the statement of the Spanish General Medical Council from 19th April 2020. The demand for SARS COV2 infection to be recognized as an occupational accident for physicians and medical staff is fully justified. In Romania, the first deceased doctor in the context of the pandemic was a Family doctor, who had no previous medical problems and who, through the profession's perspective, came in contact with several people who were subsequently confirmed with Covid-19. His condition started to deteriorate after 14 days of isolation, samples were taken for the COVID-19 test, which were negative. We consider that despite the fact that the PCR test was negative, the epidemiological context and the possibility of the test being false negative without any corroboration with other immunological tests, the case of our colleague should be considered as a work accident, his life being sacrificed for the sake of public health.

Another sad example is that of our Turkish colleague who received COVID 19 treatment in intensive care unit and was clinically positive, but the PCR test was negative, so the final diagnosis was of viral pneumonia. His body was sent to the Istanbul Forensic Medicine Institute for an autopsy only at the insistence of his family and the Chamber of Physicians.

Such cases draw our attention to the fragility of the health of the doctors working in the Family physicians' practices as well as of all those who work in contact with COVID-19 in hospitals. States need to be more involved in ensuring the protection and safety of physicians.