Albania

1. State of Clinical Engineering (CE) - Health Technology Management (HTM) – Body of Practice (BOP)

Clinical Engineering in Albania is relatively new but evolving quickly. The increased role of technology in diagnosis and treatment and the increasing investments in health technology in public and private Albanian facilities during the last 15 years is growing the demand for CE and HTM.

The importance of the health technology management during all life cycles of the medical devices is still not in the focus of the healthcare reforms because of low awareness by the high level decision makers. No proper standardized routines for planning, procurement, installation, acceptance testing, maintenance, repair, documentation and training.

The first legal act for medical devices in Albania, in 2014, regulates the circulation of medical devices in Albanian market, improves the safety for the patients and users, defines the legal responsibilities of the responsible structures for regulation implementation.

With the informatisation reform in Albanian health care and medical devices becoming more software-based and connected to networks, the role and responsibilities of CE have been increased, demanding new skills and competencies. In this regards, development of well defined practice base for clinical engineers is much needed.

2. How would you suggest to show the Value of and from having CE-HTM program

By promoting the success stories of CE and by establish collaboration and partnerships with healthcare providers, industry, patient’s societies and international health organizations.

3. Example of success stories where CE supported patient outcomes

Improved Access and HTM by improving maintenance strategy for the hospitals’ highest technology diagnostic equipment – linear accelerators, magnetic resonance imaging, computed tomography scanners and angiography. A new approach is implemented based on global best practices: full risk, 2-year service contracts via negotiation, open tender procedures for international participation, to avoid speculation of monopoly.

This policy resulted in shorter downtimes, better partnership with service providers, efficient use of the public funds, lower maintenance cost, providing very positive outcomes for the patients, improving the service and shortening the waiting time improving early diagnoses and better treatment.
4. CE Education program available (levels and content) – Body of Knowledge (BOK)
   No CE education programs are available.

5. CE Association/Society and Credentialing/Certification program if available

   Albanian Society of Biomedical Engineering. The mission is to promote the role and importance of biomedical engineering in healthcare, to represent the professional interests of biomedical and clinical engineers, to promote the safe use of the technology by establishing standards of practice in clinical engineering.

   As the awareness to recognize the important role of biomedical/clinical engineering is increasing internationally, the collaboration with other international societies and organizations would help to set up a much needed certification program.

6. CE major challenges (think of 3 subjects)

   Development of the university program in biomedical/clinical engineering and training programs for a high professional profile.
   Establishment of health technology assessment in order to support management, clinical and policy decisions.
   Strengthening the market surveillance for medical devices to ensure regulatory compliance and public health protection.

7. What is the most important action you will support to increase CE recognition

   Increase awareness of policy makers to build recognition of the profession and the important role in health technology management.

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