



European Society of Clinical Pharmacy: bridging gaps—clinical pharmacy in the digital transition of care

Mara Pereira Guerreiro¹ · Ema Paulino²

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Transitions of care remain one of the most vulnerable moments in healthcare delivery. As individuals move between healthcare settings, professionals and levels of care, communication gaps, fragmentation of information and medication-related problems continue to compromise patient safety and health outcomes [1–3]. At the same time, healthcare systems across Europe are undergoing rapid digital transformation, creating new opportunities for clinical pharmacy practice while also introducing new challenges [4, 5].

This is the theme of the European Society of Clinical Pharmacy (ESCP) Symposium 2026, which will take place in Almada, Portugal, from 12–14 October 2026, “Bridging Gaps: Clinical Pharmacy in the Digital Transition of Care”. The symposium will explore how clinical pharmacy can contribute to safer, more integrated and person-centred care in increasingly digital healthcare environments. The programme aligns with the core ESCP domains of clinical pharmacy practice, education and research [6].

Hosted at the Egas Moniz School of Health & Science, the symposium aims to bring together pharmacists, researchers, educators, students, policymakers and healthcare leaders to discuss how digital innovation can strengthen transitions of care across healthcare systems. It also highlights the importance of collaboration between academia, clinical practice and professional leadership in shaping the future of healthcare delivery.

The scientific programme is structured around three major themes. A pre-symposium session will address the implications of the European Health Data Space for pharmacists in transitions of care. The first scientific day, “Transitions of care in a digital ecosystem”, focuses on digitally supported

medicines reconciliation across hospital and community care, artificial intelligence-assisted medication monitoring, and patient perspectives on digital transitions of care. The second day, “Training the next generation of clinical pharmacists for the digital transition of care”, addresses competency frameworks, workforce development and educational approaches required to prepare pharmacists for increasingly digital healthcare systems [7, 8]. The final day, “Research frontiers: generating evidence for digital transition”, will explore data-driven and patient-facing digital interventions, including pharmacist-led digital follow-up after discharge, remote monitoring, self-management support and the role of generative artificial intelligence across care settings [9, 10].

Digital tools, electronic health records, artificial intelligence and data-driven interventions are increasingly transforming the way patients move across care settings [11]. However, technology alone does not improve care. Clinical pharmacists play a fundamental role in ensuring that digital transformation translates into safer medicines use, continuity of care, improved communication and better patient outcomes [12–14]. As healthcare systems become more interconnected, the need for pharmacists with strong clinical, digital and collaborative competencies becomes even more evident [15–17].

The symposium programme includes keynote lectures from internationally recognised experts, roundtable discussions, workshops, oral and poster research presentations, special interest groups and committee sessions, networking opportunities and the prestigious Steve Hudson Lecture. As in previous ESCP symposia, dissemination of research findings will be central to the programme, with abstracts published in the *International Journal of Clinical Pharmacy*. The symposium also aims to encourage interdisciplinary dialogue and international collaboration among participants from across Europe and beyond.

Beyond the scientific content, the symposium seeks to promote the exchange of experiences and perspectives across cultures and professional contexts. Efforts to improve patient

✉ Mara Pereira Guerreiro
mguerreiro@egasmoniz.edu.pt

¹ Egas Moniz Center for Interdisciplinary Research, Egas Moniz School of Health & Science, Almada, Portugal

² National Association of Pharmacies, Lisbon, Portugal

care extend beyond formal sessions and also depend on the human connections, shared experiences and professional networks that support meaningful and sustainable healthcare innovation. Almada, located across the Tagus River from Lisbon and close to the Atlantic coast, offers a particularly fitting setting for discussions centred on connection, transition and collaboration.

We warmly invite readers, researchers and healthcare professionals to join the ESCP Symposium 2026 and contribute to the ongoing discussions on how clinical pharmacy can help bridge gaps in digital transitions of care.

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