THE ESTONIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (EMA) is a voluntary nongovernmental organisation. The EMA was founded on February 28, 1921 as the Association of Estonian Medical Societies and refounded on June 11, 1988 as the National Medical Association. The EMA has had the functions of a trade union since 1992.

The aims of the EMA are to protect the professional and economic interests of physicians, to participate in the creation of health policy and improve health care in Estonia.

The main activities of the association are quality assurance in health care, protection of its members in the labour market, postgraduate and continuous medical education affairs, co-operation with other medical organisations in Estonia and abroad, dealing with problems of medical ethics, reorganisation of the certification system of medical specialists in Estonia.

The total number of members of the Estonian Medical Association is **2878**. The administrative bodies of the Association are the general assembly (meeting once a year), the council (meeting twice a year), and the board (meeting 8 times a year). The President and the board members are elected by the general assembly for a term of three years.

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