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Cross-border Cooperation - Opinion adopted by Health Expert Panel

The independent Expert Panel, which advises the European Commission on matters relating to "effective ways of investing in health", has adopted on the third of August an opinion on Cross-border cooperation.



In this opinion, the Expert Panel identifies potential areas for successful cooperation, as well as existing and potential benefits from such a cooperation.

According to the Panel, potential benefits of Cross-border cooperation include **greater freedom for patients to choose where to be treated, improved professional and vocational education and training for personnel, enhanced mobility for health professionals, faster response in medical emergencies, and treatment in nearby facilities.**

The Expert Panel also identifies obstacles to successful cooperation in health care. These can be divided into three main categories:

- 1) lack of information and transparency about treatments in another Member State;
- 2) uncertainty about payments and related reimbursement procedures; and
- 3) arrangements for follow-up and post-treatment issues.

The Expert Panel suggests priority actions which could be taken at EU level to help overcome some of these obstacles. The most obvious priority is to put in place systems to provide data on the number of patients circulating, the types of treatment they are receiving, any problems they are experiencing and examples of how these can be overcome.

The opinion in question, was requested by the **Commission's Health and Consumers Directorate General**. *This opinion, as all advice given by the Expert Panel, is non-binding.*

You can find the referred opinion in the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/expert_panel/opinions/index_en.htm

For any further information on this issue, please do not hesitate to contact our Secretariat.

UK's NHS nurse recruitment from EU 'too aggressive'

By Jane Dreaper Health correspondent,
BBC News 31 July 2015

Nursing leaders in Portugal, Spain and Italy say "aggressive strategies" are being used to "fool" a growing number of their staff into working in the NHS.



Increasing numbers of young graduates are tempted by UK salaries up to three times what they might earn at home.

A body representing UK recruitment companies has admitted a few agencies "misrepresent" the work they offer.

Health Education England (HEE) says it is increasing the number of nurse training places in England to fill NHS gaps.

Nursing shortages

In an HEE film, used to attract EU nurses, new arrivals to the NHS in the West Midlands are asked why they left Spain and Portugal.

They refer to the career and skills opportunities in the UK - as well as higher salaries.

But Portugal has its own nursing shortages.

The vice-president of Portugal's nursing regulator, Dr Bruno Gomes, told BBC News: "Some recruitment firms have very aggressive tactics.

Temporary work

"The companies - mainly from the UK - come to the nursing schools, and hold big conferences in the fourth year of the degree.

"Among the conditions they offer is free language training, and sometimes accommodation for three or even six months."

Spanish Council of Nursing president Dr Maximo Jurado told BBC News:

"They lie - they fool nurses.

"Perhaps a group of nurses go to a country, rent a flat, and they think they are going to work at a particular hospital.

"Then that company organising temporary work sends nurses one day to a hospital in one city, another day to a different hospital in a different city."

'Poor planning'

Spain sends the largest number of nurses to the UK - about 2,000 last year.

Dr Jurado added: "There is a more general problem of poor planning by the NHS.

"Any health service in any country has to do appropriate planning for the future - because otherwise nurses will have to be recruited from other countries.

"We are all trying to plan for the future, in order not to have such a big gap."

'Lower salary'

Sometimes, the NHS enters into formal overseas agreements with local staffing boards - 150 nurses from Venice came to three hospitals in Manchester in this way.

Dr Genarro Rocco, who helps lead Italy's nursing colleges, said: "We have had just a few complaints, but these are from nurses who were told they would be working in a hospital - and they end up providing just basic care instead.

"On other occasions, they were maybe getting a lower salary than what was promised."

Samantha Hurley, from the Association of Professional Staffing Companies (Apsco), said: ""We are aware that misrepresentation can happen when recruitment firms engage professional healthcare workers from other EU countries.

"The issue is one of a lack of understanding of the process.

'Ethical manner'

"In order to practise in the UK, healthcare professionals must register with the appropriate professional body and obtain a Pin number.

"Without which, for instance, a band-five nurse would not be able to work as such and would be in a position where they had to accept a band-two healthcare assistant role instead."

Apsco says foreign staff needs comprehensive preparation and induction - as one study indicated up to a third returned home within a year.

Ms Hurley added: "**We believe that the vast majority of recruitment firms which provide international staff are doing so in an ethical manner and are ensuring workers are properly inducted.**

"But a minority of recruitment firms, based not only in the UK but also in other EU countries, is shipping over large quantities of workers without the appropriate support."

For any further information on that issue, please feel free to contact our Secretariat.

'Expensive' and 'incoherent' healthcare regulation needs 'radical overhaul'

7 August, 2015 | By [Nicola Merrifield](#)

Today we would like to share with you a very interesting article criticising the Healthcare regulation of the UK. We hope that, in reading the main points considered as being challenging by the article could reflect on your own Home regulations.



Healthcare regulation in the UK is “incoherent”, “expensive” and requires a “radical overhaul” according to a review by the body which oversees the work of organisations including the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

The, a **CEPLIS correspondent organization**, which presides over all nine professional regulators, also said there is “little evidence” as to how effective regulation currently was in improving health and social care standards.

The body said changes in the way the healthcare system will work in the future also required a reform of regulation.

The body pointed out a series of problems with the system in its current form.

It said the sheer number of regulators – more than 20, including nine professional ones and systems regulators such as the Care Quality Commission - that had appeared over the years were slowing the pace of change in the sector.

Meanwhile, it pointed to a lack of understanding among regulators about what influence their work has on healthcare workers’ behaviours.

“Despite the fact that fitness to practise allegations are made against a small percentage of the total number of registrants, the continuing instances of harm to patients and the public resulting from unprofessional conduct is of great concern,” said the report.

It called for a better understanding by regulators of the different risks involved in each of the healthcare professions and for adjustments to be made to regulation accordingly.

The PSA also pointed to the “demoralising impact” on the healthcare worker of the onerous process involved in some regulation.

Preventative action - by regulators using their influence and interventions to reduce noncompliance with standards – should be a key focus for the future, it also said.

Meanwhile, the report noted “with concern” the contradictory public messages about “blame” in relation to the practice of healthcare professionals.

“The recently published [government] response to the Freedom to Speak Up Review is called Learning Not Blaming, but at the same time the government has passed legislation to criminalise ‘avoidable harm’,” it said.

The report said regulators had a role to play in creating a more open culture and through redesigning the system they should encourage professionals to drive improvement.

“We must seek to understand what motivates individuals, teams and organisations to succeed, not attempt

to frighten them to resentful compliance,” it added.

Responding to the report, NMC chief executive Jackie Smith said the body had for some time been calling for a change in the law that would enable it to modernise its regulation.

“Our 2015-2020 strategy sets out our aim to be a dynamic regulator working as part of a wider system of regulation focusing more on prevention than responding to concerns,” she said.

“The public expect all regulators to deliver public protection efficiently, effectively and fairly. We have made significant improvements to how we do that, and the results are evident but there is more to do. We can only do that with new legislation,” added Ms Smith.

For any further information on that issue, please feel free to contact our Secretariat.

Official launch of the first international francophone nursing research journal

Elsevier launches the first international Francophone scientific journal for nurses.

This innovative magazine - quarterly and online - is entirely dedicated to research in nursing.



Intended for the entire Francophone community nurses, the international francophone Journal nursing research aims at:

- promoting nursing research in the international Francophonie,
- contributing to the development and dissemination of nursing knowledge,
- optimising the visibility and impact of the work, disseminating best practices, by updating and evaluation.

Members of the editorial board and the evaluation team are nurses who have developed specific expertise.

To optimize the quality of published texts, original articles will be accepted after peer review space. Mark indexing in international research databases and obtaining an impact factor is a priority.

The electronic version of the journal provides ease of access to scientific content, including through pre-publication articles already validated.

Only the first issue has a print.

The journal is open access in the first year!

<http://www.fine-europe.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Edito-Refiri-1-mont%C3%A9.pdf>

For any further information on that issue, please feel free to contact our Secretariat.

Nurses and physicians top list of ‘important’ jobs

18 August, 2015 | By Steve Ford. Nursing Times

Nurses have been ranked as having the second most important job, after physicians, out of a list of professions in a poll compiled for the care provider HC-One.



It suggests that nursing’s reputation has withstood the recent negative headlines. However, the fact that nurses came second to physicians, may indicate that traditional views persist among the public regarding the roles of nursing and medicine.

Either way, the two healthcare professions were ranked higher than other public sector and emergency services, though carers and dentists fared less well.

The research was commissioned by HC-One, UK’s third largest care home operator, and carried out by pollsters YouGov.

In the survey of 1,507 adults in the UK, people were asked to rank a list of 10 jobs in order of importance.

Nurses polled in second place, followed by police officers, fire fighters and teachers.

Carers were ranked as more important than lawyers, bankers and politicians, who were placed at the bottom of most people’s list.

Jobs were ranked in the following order, according to which ranking position was the highest/most popular for each job:

1. Physicians
2. Nurse
3. Police Officer
4. Firefighter
5. Teacher
6. Carer
7. Dentist
8. Lawyer
9. Politician
10. Banker

Dr Chai Patel, chair of HC-One, said: “The nursing care provided at all of the homes is vital to residents and to HC-One.

He added: “It is a cornerstone of what HC-One stands for, and without the hard work and dedication of our nursing team, HC-One would not be where we are today – providing truly kind and quality care.”

The online survey was undertaken by YouGov from 1-2 July.

For any further information on this issue, please do not hesitate to contact our Secretariat.