



Meeting of the Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health

Minutes

Brussels, 26 April 2019

Fifth meeting of the Working group on Task shifting in healthcare systems

23 April 2019, 14h00 –17h00 CET

1. Approval of the agenda and the minutes

The agenda was approved without changes as well as the minutes of the previous working group (WG) meeting of 2 April 2019.

2. Nature of the meeting

The fifth WG meeting on Task shifting in healthcare systems took place on 23 April in Brussels. The meeting, which was chaired by Jan De Maeseneer, was a non-public meeting.

No declarations of interest that could in any way interfere with the topic discussed were submitted from any panel member.

3. List of points discussed

Ongoing work on opinion

An updated opinion was circulated before the meeting for WG members' comments. Chair directed the first part of the discussion towards the general considerations, possible improvements and clarifications. Several key issues have been stressed, among others the concept of integrated team approach in task shifting, how rules are decided in the team and how this is communicated, complexity of legal and regulatory framework which differs in MS. It was recognised that what might work well in one MS/context does not have to in others. Other issues discussed were related to the link between task-shifting in creating the teams and the issue of payment/reimbursement/price for the services as well as the training path for professions. The issue of informal task shifting was mentioned. Members discussed the problem of the limited evidence, agreed to put together the existing literature on evidence for task shifting.

Members further elaborated on proposed recommendations and agreed to add an introduction to recommendations explaining the overarching principles and multi-dimensional factors

influencing task shifting. They discussed several considerations, mainly that i) the task shifting can be justified on various grounds, ii) whether the individual taking on the new tasks has the needed skills and expertise, (potential training), iii) whether there are any legal or regulatory barriers to tasks shifting. Potential consequences of task shifting on organisation were also considered.

Planning of work

Members agreed to circulate a final draft for Panel approval by beginning of May to be publicly available before a public hearing scheduled for 5 June.

4. Conclusion

The Chair thanked participants for their presence and the valuable discussion and comments, which helped move forward with the opinion.

5. Next meeting

The public hearing is scheduled for 5 June.

6. List of participants

Members

BARROS Pedro PITA
BARRY Margaret (apologies)
BOUREK Aleš
BROUWER Werner
DE MAESENEER Jan
KRINGOS Dionne (apologies)
LEHTONEN Lasse (apologies)
MCKEE Martin
MURAUŠKIENE Liubove
RICCIARDI Walter (apologies)
SICILIANI Luigi

Researcher

van SCHALKWYK May

European Observatory

WISMAR Matthias (apologies)

DG SANTE

DUMITRESCU Ovidiu (B1)
VOLOSINOVA Viera (B1)