



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

### Minutes

Brussels, 11 March 2019

#### **Second meeting of the Working group on Task shifting in healthcare systems (via audio conference)**

**1 March 2019, 10h00 –12h00 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 6 February 2019.

#### **2. Nature of the meeting**

The second WG meeting on Task shifting in healthcare systems took place on 1 March via audio conference. 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 outline for the opinion was circulated before the meeting for WG members' comments. The Chair stressed that the opinion should carefully scrutinise the work of European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies and integrate conclusions/outcomes of its related publication on skill mix in the health system. The title of the opinion was discussed and both "task-shifting" and "skill mix" were considered. The first part of the discussion was devoted to general considerations regarding the structure of the opinion, the flexibility in the context of resilience, long-term integrated community care as well as dualism – health services-healthcare. Members discussed the four factors influencing the changes of roles of health workers, namely, changing pattern of disease, the growth of technology, professional norms, and organisational factor. It was suggested to add empowering of patients and communities and the health literacy considerations as well. Members exchanged views on the

need to rethink the existing education/training of health workers, new ways of dividing curricula for various levels of competences and skills. The need to reflect on legal issues, including legal consequences of task shifting has been mentioned. Members agreed to identify influential factors, among others enabling conditions (including working conditions, burnout and wages differences), barriers, available methods and strategies. They discussed how to evaluate and measure the outcomes and the possible impact of task shifting on effectiveness of the health system using an evaluation framework. Members explored how to elaborate on general economic issues including allocative efficiency; a possible shift labour-capital was also mentioned.

### **Planning of work**

Members agreed to circulate an updated draft by 15 March in order for it to be discussed in the next meeting.

### **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 next meeting will take place on 19 March 2019 in Brussels.

### **6. List of participants**

#### **Members**

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

#### **DG SANTE**

DUMITRESCU Ovidiu (B1)  
VOLOSINOVA Viera (B1)