



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Health systems, medical products and innovation
B3 Cross border healthcare, eHealth

Workshop

“Ticking the Boxes or Improving Healthcare and Patient Safety?”

Optimising Continuous Professional Development of Health Professionals in the EU”

Thursday 11 February 9:00 – 17:30

2nd floor, room AB 2D

Centre Albert Borschette, rue Froissart 36, Brussels

Background

Continuous professional development and lifelong learning help to ensure that professional practice is up to date, contributes to improving healthcare outcomes and patient safety as well as increasing public confidence in the professions. The increasing cross-border mobility of health professionals has led to significant interest to better understand and learn from the rich variety of CPD approaches in Europe to improve the quality of care and patient safety across the EU. A number of EU initiatives and legislation underline the importance of regularly updating and improving the skills of health professionals through lifelong learning and continuous professional development¹ and to improve quality of care and patient safety². The EU Directive on the recognition of Professional Qualifications³ introduces an exchange of information and best practice for optimising CPD in the Member States.

To help improve understanding of the diverse CPD approaches in Europe, a European Commission study, published in January 2015, provides a unique and comprehensive account of the CPD systems for doctors, nurses, dentists, midwives and pharmacists in 31 European countries. Drawing on findings from a literature review, a Europe-wide survey and an expert workshop, the study concludes that CPD aiming to improve professional knowledge or practice are generally considered to improve healthcare quality and ensure patient safety, however further research and discussion in this area is recommended. European cooperation has much to contribute to the development and strengthening of national CPD systems for health professions.

¹ Action Plan for EU Health Workforce, April 2012

² Council Recommendation of 9 June 2009 on patient safety, including the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections

³ Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of Professional qualifications as amended by 2013/55/EU

In response to the study recommendations⁴, the expert group on European health workforce⁵ invited the European Commission to organise a workshop to share and discuss national experiences on CPD systems and approaches to improve quality of care and patient safety.

Workshop Aims

This workshop will bring together up to 60 experts in the area of continuous professional development, including representatives of regulatory, professional and educational bodies and the European Commission. The aim of the workshop is to discuss ways to optimise CPD of health professionals to improve quality of care and patient safety. The first session is dedicated to the impact of CPD from the research, educational and clinical perspective followed by a session to present and discuss different national approaches to organise the CPD of health professionals. The workshop will conclude with a summing up of lessons learned. The workshop discussions will be summarised in a report to be made public. The report will be a contribution to the exchange of best practice under the EU Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications.

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/health/workforce/key_documents/continuous_professional_development/index_en.htm

⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/health/workforce/docs/ev_20150617_mi_en.pdf

FINAL PROGRAMME

- 8:30-9:00** **Registration & Coffee**
- 9:00** **Welcome by Chair**
Carlos J. Morenos Sánchez, Director-General, Ministry of Health Spain
- 9:15** **CPD of Health Professionals: European Context**
Caroline Hager, DG Health and Food Safety, European Commission
- Session 1** **CPD and Patient Safety: Research, Education and Clinical Perspectives**
- 9:30** **Does CPD contribute to improving health care outcomes? What is the evidence?**

Professor Janet Grant, Director of CenMEDIC, FAIMER Centre for Distance Learning, Emeritus professor of education in medicine at the Open University, UK

Professor Michel Wensing, Professor in Health Services Research and Implementation Science, University Hospital Heidelberg, Dept. of General Practice and Health Services Research
- 11:00** Coffee break
- 11:20** **Interprofessional Education to improve patient outcomes**

Professor Andre Vyt, University of Ghent - Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences, Chair of the European Interprofessional Practice and Education Network (EIPEN)
- 12:00** **Embedding patient safety and quality of care in the structure of CPD training**

Case Study: Nursing Leadership: a programme for continuous education for RNs in the Jeroen Bosch Hospital.

Dr. Marjolein Schouten, Head of Education, Jeroen Bosch Hospital Den Bosch, Netherlands
- 12:30** **Case Study: Zero Project to reduce hospital infections**

Dr. J. Álvarez Rodríguez, Jefe de Servicio de Medicina Intensiva, Hospital Universitario de Fuenlabrada, Spain
- 13:00-14:15** **Lunch**

- Session 2** **What can we learn from national CPD approaches/systems?**
- 14:15** **Continuous professional development of nurses in the UK**
- Dr. Katerina Kolyva, Director of Continued Practice, Nursing and Midwifery Council, UK
- 14:55** **Introducing a new CPD system for pharmacists in Ireland**
- Dr. Lorraine Horgan, Head of Professional Development, Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, Ireland
- 15:35** Coffee break
- 15:55** **Building a Learning Environment: Work in Progress in Sweden**
- Michael Bergström, Senior Adviser, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, Sweden
- 16:35** **Reforming the continuous professional development of health professionals in France**
- Eve Julien & Bruno Liffra, project managers « continuous professional development », Direction générale pour l'organisation des soins, Ministry of Health, France
- 17:15** **Summing Up: What lessons can be learned?**
- Dr. Eszter Kovács, Assistant Professor, Health Services Management Training Centre, Semmelweis University, Hungary
- 17:30** **Close**