

Healthcare Professionals Crossing Borders

A statement from European healthcare regulators on the European Commission's Consultation on Community action on health services.

Healthcare Professionals Crossing Borders is an informal partnership of healthcare regulatory authorities in Europe with a focus on patient safety. It exists to develop and promote proactive cooperation and collaboration in information exchange between regulators of health professionals in Europe.

With a high level of professional mobility around Europe and potentially more patients seeking treatment abroad, regulators are keen to work cooperatively and collaboratively to contribute to safe healthcare in Europe.

We see the Commission's current consultation on health services as a valuable opportunity to bring legal clarity to issues of professional and patient mobility in Europe and enhance patient safety.

We **believe**:

- assurance of patient safety and professional competence should be paramount in any European Commission proposal on cross-border health services.
- all regulators must exchange information about healthcare professionals that has a bearing on patient safety in Europe and on professional competence.
- the European Commission has a role to play in facilitating easy identification of all healthcare competent authorities in Europe.
- competent authorities should be required to request a Certificate of Current Professional Status for every healthcare professional seeking registration within their regulatory jurisdiction.
- there should be legal clarity about regulatory responsibility in instances of cross-border provision of services, such as telemedicine and remote diagnosis.
- there are some common standards and principles of healthcare that patients have a right to expect from regulated healthcare professionals and these should be emphasised within existing national standards, codes and/or guidance.
- patients seeking treatment in other European member states, and those commissioning services, should have access to good quality information to enable them to exercise informed choice.

We would like to **avoid**:

- provisions that enable practice in another member state without the host state being able to require, at least, temporary registration or pro forma registration in that member state.
- additional restrictions to sharing information that is in the patient and public interest, while acknowledging existing legal constraints.
- confusion for patients and the public, when they access health services abroad, as to where regulatory responsibility for health professionals lies.

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Supporting organisations listed overleaf

Organisations in support of this statement:

**An Bord Altranais
(Irish Nursing Board)**

**AURE
(Alliance of UK healthcare Regulators on
Europe)**

**BIG-Register,
Netherlands**

**Collège Médical du Grand Duché du
Luxembourg**

**Cyprus Council of Nursing and Midwifery,
Ministry of Health**

Cyprus Dental Council

Cyprus Medical Council

**ECOO
(European Council of Optometry and
Optics)**

Estonian Health Care Board

**Estonian Ministry of Education and
Research**

**FEPI
(European federation of nursing regulators)**

**FORE
(Forum for Osteopathic Regulation in
Europe)**

French National Council of Pharmacists

German Medical Association

Malta Council for Nursing and Midwives

Medical Council of Ireland

**Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity,
Greece**

**National Authority for Medicolegal Affairs,
Finland**

Norwegian Board of Health

**Norwegian Registration Authority for
Health Personnel**

Office for Health Authorisation, Hungary

**Ordem dos Enfermeiros
(Portuguese Nursing Regulator)**

**Ordre National des Chirurgiens-Dentistes,
(French Dental Council)**

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland

**Subdirección General de Ordenación
Profesional
Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo, Spain**

Swiss Medical Association

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