European Reference Networks

The view of the medical profession

Conference on
European Reference Networks
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Edwin Borman
Declaration
of potential conflict of interest

Medical Director and Consultant Anaesthetist (paid)
Shrewsbury & Telford Hospital NHS Trust, Shropshire, UK

Educational Consultancy (paid)
Wentz-Miller and Associates
Individual consultancy work (nil in the last two years)

Medicopolitical representative
British Medical Association (BMA)
Secretary General, European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS)
The UEMS – background

“Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes”

“European Union of Medical Specialists”

- Established in 1958
- Representing 37 countries
  - 50+ specialities, sub-specialities & multidisciplinary areas
  - ca. 1.4 million medical specialists
The UEMS – purpose

- **Objectives**
  
  Promote *free movement*
  
  Through the *harmonisation* of the highest level of specialist training and the medical care provided for patients

- **Vision**
  
  Set standards in the fields of
  
  Postgraduate Specialist Medical Training
  
  Continuing Medical Education & Professional Development
  
  Quality Assurance in specialist medical practice
Potential for ERNs

- Centres dedicated to:
  
  Patient care – Training – Research

- This also includes:
  
  - Pooling of knowledge & competence
  - Highly specialised / complex procedures
  - Quality benchmark & improvement
  - Concentration & mobility of expertise

- UEMS identifying existing networks...
An e-Platform for Medical Specialists

- An e-Platform that will support the assessment of medical specialists’ competence

- Expected outcome:
  - Clinical logbook linking to European curricula and showing the progress of trainees
  - Assessment of knowledge practical procedures behaviours
European assessment & certification of medical competence

Applicant

Knowledge Assessment
- MCQs on accredited:
  - textbook chapters
  - guidelines
  - articles
  - CME products

Practical Skills Assessment
- e-Logbook
- e-Portfolio
- DOPS (direct observation of practical skills)

Assessment of Professionalism
- CPD activities
- 360° Appraisal

Certification

Formative process

ECAMSOQ®
e-Platform for Medical Specialists

- Creating a Network for:
  - Improved quality training and quality of care
  - Links and contacts between professionals
  - Exchange of experience and clinical cases
Accreditation of Clinical Skills Centres in Europe (NASCE)

- **Aim to ensure:**
  - High quality training in clinical skills centres
  - Quality management

- **Criteria to include:**
  - Governance & Administration
  - Teachers & Learners
  - Competencies
  - Research & Development
Accreditation of Clinical Skills Centres in Europe (NASCE)

- Key for simulation for training purpose
  - ✓ provide for quality training in rare / complex / highly sophisticated procedures
  - ✓ for multiple specialities or professions
  - ✓ an increased guarantee of high quality care provided by highly skilled professionals

❖ Suggestion... for Accreditated Centres to be recognised as, or to become part of the ERN
Potential Networks
Head & Neck Surgery

- Skull-based tumours
  - complex procedures
  - collaboration on national guidelines
  - sharing of national patient databases (DAHANCA)
  - different procedures or treatments:
    - ‘swing technique’ (Copenhagen or Aarhus)
    - endoscopy (Brescia)
    - and others...
Potential Networks
Paediatrics & Neonatology

- Premature births
  EuroNeoNet & EuroNeoStat

  ✓ EU funded research project 2006-2009

  ✓ EU Information System to monitor short and long-term morbidity for very-low-birth-weight infants

  ✓ Database of premature deaths

  ✓ Centres identified
Potential Networks
Gynaecology & Obstetrics

- Gestational diabetes & newborn obesity
  - diabetes in pregnancy study group
  - consensus on screening
  - criteria for diagnostic
  - implementation of WHO recommendations

- timely diagnosis
- appropriate treatment
- stimulated research
Conclusions

- Challenges
  - ✓ Support will be necessary in setting up ERNs

- What ERN recognition entails...
  - ✓ a mark of excellence – certainly! – but..
  - ✓ ... what else?
Recommendations

- Beware complexity...
  - role of Board of Member States & Commission
  - national vs European criteria
  - stakeholder consultation to be provided

- We need to go beyond rare conditions
  - the potential to encompass other fields,
    - eg. complex procedures
  - support and develop valuable existing initiatives
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Edwin Borman
UEMS Secretary General
sg@uems.net