

Healthcare Professionals Crossing Borders Portugal Agreement

An Agreement of the Healthcare Professionals Crossing Borders partnership made in Lisbon, Portugal on 8th October 2007

Agreement 1.

Identifying Shared Principles of Regulation:

- a) Competent authorities should ensure that patient safety is of overriding importance within their model of professional regulation.
- b) The pursuit of safe and high quality practice by health professionals should shape the continued development of healthcare regulation across Europe.
- c) Competent authorities should identify common or shared concepts and values of healthcare regulation through a series of focused European level discussions.
- d) Competent authorities should collectively consider how the five principles of good regulation – accountability, transparency, proportionality, consistency, targeting¹ – may contribute to the effective development of healthcare regulation in Europe, through a series of European level discussions.

Agreement 2.

Transparent and Accessible Healthcare Regulation:

- a) Competent authorities should run a website signposted and accessible via the www.healthregulation.org website and/or http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/qualifications/compauth_en.htm .
- b) Competent authorities will share experience in the development of web-based information and publicly transparent lists of registered professionals and identify good practice.
- c) Competent authorities should work to develop real-time web-based publicly searchable lists of registered professionals.

¹ Taken from the Legal Affairs Committee of the European Parliament Report on Better Regulation in the EU 2.7.07 (pg 5 para 1) <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+REPORT+A6-2007-0273+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN>

- d) Competent authorities should work towards making all notifications of disciplinary hearings and decisions public, where legally possible.
- e) Competent authorities will continue to adopt and implement the European template for a Certificate of Current Professional Status, as appropriate, as agreed within the Edinburgh Agreement.
- f) Competent authorities will continue to work towards adopting the HPCB Memorandum of Understanding on Case by Case and Proactive information exchange.
- g) Competent authorities will continue to support the development of the European Commission's IMInet system and will utilise this information exchange tool in accordance with the provisions for administrative cooperation contained within Directive 2005/36/EC.

Agreement 3.

Competence Assurance of European Healthcare Professionals:

- a) Competent authorities will identify best practice from existing competence assurance and performance enhancement initiatives from across the globe.
- b) Competent authorities will undertake an audit of all existing or proposed competence assurance and performance enhancement initiatives within the EEA.
- c) Competent authorities should, where possible, work to develop appropriate competence assurance and performance enhancement initiatives based on global good practice.
- d) Competent authorities should develop appropriate information exchange tools to provide assurance to other competent authorities of current practitioner performance competence when practitioners seek to practise in other member states.
- e) All competent authorities should take proactive steps to make new registrants familiar with the relevant professional standards, codes and guidance on registration that apply in their jurisdiction.
- f) All competent authorities should make their standards, codes and guidance publicly available.

