

A statement from European healthcare regulators on the European Commission's Green Paper on the EU Workforce for Health

Healthcare Professionals Crossing Borders is an informal partnership of healthcare regulatory authorities (competent 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 the EU health workforce as a valuable opportunity to bring legal clarity to issues of professional and patient mobility in Europe and enhance patient safety.

We **believe** that:

- assurance of patient safety and professional competence should be paramount in any European Commission initiative on the EU workforce for health.
- all regulators must exchange information about healthcare professionals that has a bearing on patient safety in Europe and on professional competence.
- the European Commission should facilitate the 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.
- competent authorities should make their standards, codes and guidance publicly available.
- competent authorities should, where possible, work to develop appropriate competence assurance mechanisms.

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 on competent authorities to sharing information that is in the patient and public interest, while acknowledging existing legal constraints.
- confusion for patients and the public as to where regulatory responsibility for health professionals lies.

Organisations in support of this statement:

Consejo General de Colegios de Fisioterapeutas
Spain

Consejo General de Colegios de Logopedas de España
Spain

Council of European Dentists
EU-wide

Cyprus Dental Council
Cyprus

Cyprus Medical Council
Cyprus

Czech Medical Chamber
Czech Republic

Estonian Health Care Board
Estonia

European Council of Optometry and Optics
EU-wide

Forum for Osteopathic Regulation in Europe
EU-wide

General Chiropractic Council
UK

General Dental Council
UK

General Medical Council
UK

General Optical Council
UK

General Osteopathic Council
UK

Health and Social Care Professionals Council
Ireland

Health Professions Council
UK

Inspectie voor de Gezondheidszorg
The Netherlands

Irish Dental Council
Ireland

Medical Council of Malta
Malta

Ministerul Sănătății
Romania

Ministry of Health
Poland

The National Council of the Belgian Order of Physicians
Belgium

Norwegian Registration Authority for Health Personnel (SAFH)
Norway

Ordine dei Medici Chirurghi e degli Odontoiatri della provincia di Latina
Italy

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland
Ireland

RIBIZ
The Netherlands

Romanian College of Physicians
Romania

Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (RPSGB)
UK

The Specialist Registration Committees of the Royal Dutch Medical Association (KNMG)
The Netherlands