



News for Regulators

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ICN / ICM Regulators Forum

24-25 November 2009, Lisbon, Portugal

22 delegates from twelve countries attended the 5th ICN and ICM Regulators Forum, held in Lisbon, Portugal, from 24-25 November 2009. The Forum, co-hosted by the Ordem dos Enfermeiros, considered a range of topics and issue over the two days of meetings. The following topics were debated:

- Role of the regulator in student selection
- Role of the regulator in curriculum design and content
- Role of the regulator in determining recognition of prior learning and continuing education credits.

In addition trigger papers had stimulated discussion on the topics of:

- Data exchange between regulators
- Adaptation programs.

On odd years the Regulators Forum is associated with the meeting of the Credentialing

Forum which rotates round the National Nurses Association member countries involved in the Credentialing Forum. On even years this Forum is associated with the TRIAD meeting and is held in Geneva. Therefore the next Regulators Forum will take place this year from 12-13 May in Geneva.

ICN Credentialing Forum

26-28 November 2009, Lisbon, Portugal

22 delegates from nine countries attended the 10th Credentialing Forum held in Lisbon, Portugal, from 26-28 November 2009. The Forum, co-hosted by the Ordem dos Enfermeiros, was successful in exploring a range of topics including:

- The role of the national nurses association in the portability of credentials
- Continuing professional development and strategies for the development and maintenance of competence.

At the request of the Forum members, a discussion was held on the future of the Credentialing Forum. The following points were agreed:

- There is a commitment to move forward on what is important work for the profession

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- The Forum is ready for a change of format
- The first meeting of the new entity will be held in late 2010.

A report of the Forum will be available on the ICN website shortly.



ICN Observatory on Licensure and Registration

1-3 December 2009, Lisbon, Portugal

The ICN Observatory held its 5th meeting in Lisbon in December 2009. The meeting was chaired by the ICN President, Rosemary Bryant.

Rosemary Bryant welcomed new Observatory members and also welcomed Vitor Varela, an International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) Board member for the Southern Europe region. Vitor Varela attended in the capacity as ICM observer.

Members undertook a visioning exercise considering what the world of regulation would look like in 2030. Having described a world view and the trends that are driving towards or away from that view, members then prioritised a number of issues and trends which ICN should address as well as the major strategies or initiatives ICN should use to address each of the selected issues.

New documents in the ICN Regulation Series were presented for comment including:

- *Regulation 2020: Exploration of the present; vision for the future*
- *Scope of practice and decision making frameworks (pre-publication).*

An overview and highlights of the project report, *The Role and Identity of the Regulator: an international comparative study* was presented. Members discussed the report and offered a number of recommendations for future research: Further work will now be undertaken to prioritise these suggestions against the current ICN work plan.

ICM Regulation Taskforce

The ICM taskforce on midwifery regulation is continuing its work and will hold a three day meeting in Hong Kong in late April 2010 to refine the draft the standards using a Delphi process. The results will be shared with member associations for their views before being finally presented to the ICM Council at their meeting in Durban in 2010.

'Shaping the Future': The Regulation of Health Professionals

18 & 19 February 2010, Geneva, Switzerland

The World Health Professions Alliance and the World Confederation for Physical Therapy recently held the second World Health Professions Conference on Regulation (WHPCR).

The Conference was attended by 256 delegates from 45 countries. 70 nurses attended the event.

The objectives for WHPCR 2010 were to:

- Debate the future control and direction of health professional regulation within the context of changing scopes of practice
- Examine the regulatory & professional issues related to the international migration of health professionals

- Critically evaluate the relationship between health professional education, regulation and standards of practice

The Conference programme also included uni-professional facilitated sessions where each discipline discussed topics pertinent to their profession. ICN took the opportunity to provide an update on new publications in the Regulation Series as well as holding a discussion on identifying priority issues in nursing regulation.

Healthcare Professionals Crossing Borders

Healthcare Professionals Crossing Borders is an informal partnership of professional healthcare regulators from within Europe working collaboratively on a range of regulatory issues.

The purpose is to contribute to patient safety in Europe through effective regulatory collaboration in the context of cross-border healthcare and free movement of healthcare professionals.

The initiative was established in the context of several regulatory developments:

- increasing levels of mobility in Europe by health professionals;
- the need for regulators to maintain patient safety while supporting increasing professional mobility within Europe; and
- preparation for Directive 2005/36/EC on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications, that contains requirements for increased administrative cooperation between regulatory authorities in the EU.

The HPCB initiative takes a practical approach to regulatory collaboration between professional healthcare regulators in Europe. The [Edinburgh Agreement](#) and [Portugal Agreement](#) set out a number of actions that may be implemented by participating European regulators as appropriate to their regulatory context and approach.

For more information go to http://www.hpcb.eu/about_us/

New Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia

From 1 July 2010 practitioners of the Nursing and Midwifery professions across Australia will have to meet the same requirements to be registered and their registration will be recognized in all States and Territories. The Board was established under the Health Practitioner Regulation (administrative arrangements) Act, 2009. From 1 July 2010 the Board will operate with its full range of functions under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (the national law) where adopted in a jurisdiction.

Members of the inaugural Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia were appointed by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council for a period of three years on 31 August 2009.

For more information go to <http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/index.html>

Scoping the regulation of health care support workers

The NMC, the statutory regulatory body for the UK's 660,000 nurses and midwives, is commissioning research to analyze the potential risks and benefits relating to the regulation of health care support workers in the UK. Health care support workers (HCSWs) and their equivalents provide direct services related to patient care and treatment and support the work of registered nurses and midwives. There is currently no statutory provision for the regulation of the estimated one million HCSWs working in the UK

The study will analyze the risks and issues presented to public protection by unregulated HCSWs. Their findings will support the NMC in determining what, if any, action it should take to protect the public through the regulation of these roles. The researchers will consider implications for practitioners, including HCSWs and the way in which nurses and midwives delegate to them, across the UK working in the NHS and any other settings

or forms of health care. The role of regulators, employers and the potential impact on individuals will be considered. It is anticipated that study report will be finalised later this year.

For more information go to <http://www.nmc-uk.org/aArticle.aspx?ArticleID=4037>

New Publications from ICN

Regulation 2020: Exploration of the Present; Vision for the Future

This latest publication in the Regulation Series notes that professional nursing regulation is seen as a central component of how the health and wellbeing of our societies can be achieved and the practice of the nursing profession assured. The time has come to view nursing regulation as part of a system that is seeking to find the right balance between the quality of services, access to those services and the costs of providing them. As a result a number of questions are raised about how regulation should be viewed now and in the future. Through development of a vision for the future, a framework is provided for the design and development of regulatory systems which will continue to meet the objectives of patient safety and public protection.

This document is available from the ICN Bookshop at <http://www.icn.ch/bookshop.htm>

Scope of Nursing Practice and Decision Making Framework

This Toolkit is part of a learning package that describes the policy framework, relevant concepts, key stakeholders and processes fundamental to any discussion, development and implementation of the scope of nursing practice in any country or jurisdiction. The move globally to acknowledging an individual nurse's professional accountability to determine their own scope of practice is reflected in the increasing development and use of decision making tools to assist in the process. The Toolkit therefore also describes the key components of decision making frameworks and tools and

provides examples currently in use around the world.

Throughout the document there are questions or exercises for the reader to complete and key points are highlighted. A PowerPoint presentation accompanies the Toolkit. The Toolkit will be released shortly.

Disaster Nursing Competencies

The need for qualified individuals ready to respond to disasters and to participate in preparedness and disaster recovery activities is well documented. However, training is often fragmented or not available. As the largest group of health care providers, all nurses need to develop competence in disaster response and recovery. Therefore, disaster education for all nurses is vital. However, health systems and health care delivery in disaster situations are only successful when nurses have the fundamental disaster competencies or abilities to rapidly and effectively respond. Creating competencies that support the education and role of nurses in disaster will assist in building a nursing workforce better prepared to respond and provide humanitarian aid in the event of a disaster

Call for abstracts for ICN Conference 2-8 May 2011, Malta

Nurses and other health care professionals are invited to submit abstracts for the ICN 2010 Conference and Council of National Representatives (CNR) to be held in Valetta, Malta. The conference will run from the 4-8 May and will focus on the theme of *Nurses driving access, quality and health*. The CNR will take place from 2-4 May.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is 15 September 2010. Please refer to <http://www.icn.ch> for complete guidelines and a link for on-line submission of abstracts.

ICN Networks will meet at the Conference and professional visits will be organized on 8 May. To register for the conference, and for information and regular updates on the programme, please visit <http://www.icn.ch>