



## EFN Policy Statement

### Continuity of Care

Within the context of the European Patients' Right Cross-border Healthcare Directive, the EU recognises the importance of continuity of care and the need to implement care pathways within and across organisational, disciplinary and country boundaries to allow a continuity of the healthcare process.

The European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN) believes that the key principles and strategies required for optimal implementation of continuity of care are:

- **Continuity of communication** and information at all levels to provide a holistic and integrated care for European citizens based on the individual's needs.
- Community care facilities (Primary care centres) equipped with **interoperable eHealth services** to support channels of communication among healthcare professionals and effective mechanism for information sharing.
- Adoption of a **common nursing terminology**, such as International Classification for Nursing Practice (ICNP), integrated in patient records, in order to ensure quality of care, patient safety and nursing sensitive outcomes.
- A competent, well-motivated and sustainable professional workforce to encourage capacity building when taking up **innovative solutions**.
- Clear identification of roles and responsibilities defined for health professionals including **advanced roles for nurses**.
- High standards of cooperation, active flows of communication, team working and multidisciplinary approach within **integrated delivery systems**.
- Appropriate **funding** is essential for success.

Please contact **Mr Paul de Raeve**, General Secretary of the European Federation of Nurses Associations for a position paper on this issue.  
[efn@efn.be](mailto:efn@efn.be) or Tel: +32 2 512 74 19