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CONTINUITY OF CARE

The **Patients' Rights in Cross-border Healthcare EU Directive (2011/24/EU)** calls on Member States to enhance cooperation between healthcare providers and institutions at all levels to ensure safe, high-quality and efficient cross-border healthcare. Continuity of care must also be organised and encouraged within the national and regional health systems of the European countries to make a broad collaboration in cross-border healthcare possible.

The European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN) believes that nurses, as the fundamental link between all healthcare sectors, have a crucial role in ensuring the continuity of care and asks for several efforts to be made to ensure that the nursing profession can deliver it:

- Continuity of communication and information at all levels to provide holistic and integrated care for European citizens.
- Community care facilities equipped with interoperable eHealth services to support channels of communication among healthcare professionals.
- Adoption of a common nursing terminology, such as International Classification for Nursing Practice (ICNP).
- 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.

The EFN believes that these efforts together with appropriate funding are essential for a successful implementation of the **EU Directive on Patients' Rights in Cross-border Healthcare**.

Please contact Mr Paul de Raeve, General Secretary of the European Federation of Nurses Associations, for more information. Email: efn@efn.be – Tel: +32 2 512 74 19 – Web: www.efnweb.eu

Further information:

- [EU Directive on Patients' Rights in Cross-border Healthcare](#);
- [EFN Policy Statement on Patients' Rights in Cross-Border Healthcare Directive](#);
- [EFN Position Statement on Patients' Rights in Cross-Border Healthcare Directive](#).

