

EFN Policy Statement

Patient Empowerment

Our society's need and demand for healthcare is changing, as population's age and live with greater morbidities and frailties. The nursing profession has a key role in addressing the resultant challenges, which involves redefining patient's and health professionals' roles, clarifying occupational qualifications, and reapportioning responsibilities for sustaining well-being. It is critical for both patient care and health system development that the profession takes an active lead on these developments and that governments and policy-makers adapt legislation in order to support the necessary changes.

The EFN members believe governments need to:

- Optimise patient care and outcomes by ensuring that patients and their advocates are as a matter of course involved in the redesign of national and pan-European health care systems and arrangements;
- Put significant investment into education of health professionals and evidence based policy-making, and support patients and their advocates to be better involved in them;
- Establish a Cross-Commission taskforce to increase and improve patient empowerment, involvement and engagement in European health legislation;
- Support the development of patient empowerment mechanisms across the EU, with specific focus on Cross-European standards for patient empowerment in healthcare practices;
- Embed patient empowerment and involvement within European education frameworks for health care professionals;
- Strengthen the capacity for collaborative working between patient organisations, NGOs and health care policy, practice and education.

Nurses contribute substantially to the increase and improvement of effective healthcare. Using their knowledge, skills and experience, nurses assess care needs, provide and deliver care, while working to reduce costs and improve effectiveness. The EFN believes that if suitably aligned with patient empowerment, nursing can deliver vital economic and qualitative improvements in European health outcomes.

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